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REPORT

GEOGRAPHICAL & STATISTICAL

on that part of the

CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION

WHICH HAS COME UNDER THE OPERATIONS OF THE

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

BY

G. C. DEPREE, CAPTAIN. B. S. C.
In charge No. 4, Topographical Party.

JULY 1868.

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GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT on that portion of the CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION which has come under the operations of the Topographical Survey Department, by CAPTAIN G. C. DEPREE, *in charge No. 1, Topographical Party, and Ex-officio Assistant Commissioner, Cuttack and Chota Nagpore. Dorundah, 15th July* 1868.

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1. The country termed the Chota Nagpore Division, under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, consists of the following Districts and Tributary Mehals. It was originally styled the South-west Frontier Agency of Bengal.

CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION.

DISTRICTS.	Chota Nagpore or Lohardugga.	HEAD QUARTERS LOHARDUGGA—or Ranchee, where are the Courts of the Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioner, the Deputy, the Assistant, and Extra Assistant Commissioners.
		SUB-DIVISION PALAMOW—At Daltongunge is the court of the Extra Assistant Commissioner.
	Hazaribagh	HEAD QUARTERS HAZARIBAGH—With the Courts of the Deputy Commissioner, and his Assistants.
		SUB-DIVISION BURHEE—With the Court of an Assistant Commissioner.
	Manbhoom	HEAD QUARTERS, PURULIA—With the Courts of the Deputy, and Assistant Commissioners.
		SUB-DIVISION GOVINDPUR—In charge of an Assistant Commissioner.
	Singbhoom	HEAD QUARTERS, CHAIBASSA—The Deputy Commissioner being in sole charge.
TRIBUTARY MEHALS.	Bonai.	The residence of the Raja being at Bonaigurh.
	Chang Bhokar.	do. of the Bhai Bahadoor at Janappur.
	Gangpur.	do. of the Raja being at Suadi.
	Jushpur.	do. of the Raja do. at Jugdispur.
	Korea.	do. of the Raja do. at Sunhat.
	Odeypur.	The Raja is non-resident.
	Surgooja.	The residence of the Raja being at Bisrampur.

2. Of the above, Hazaribagh, Maunbhoom, Palamow and Toree, a pergunnah of Chota-Nagpore, have been surveyed by the Revenue, and the remainder has fallen to the Topographical Survey. Chota Nagpore, Singbhoom, and Bonai are the only districts or estates which have been completed, consequently this Report will refer to them only, leaving the other estates for future consideration.

Limits of Chota Nagpore Division.

3. The parallel of latitude reached by the most northern corner of the division is 24°-17′, being an angle of the Hazaribagh District. The southern point in Bonai is 21°-37′. The eastern corner in Maunbhoom reaches 87°-15′; and the western limit of the division in Chang Bhokar has the longitude of 81°-12′. The general shape of the Division may be said to resemble a leg of mutton, the shank bone being turned towards the west.

Area of Chota Nagpore Division.

4. The area of the Chota Nagpore Division is 13,722 square miles nearly, which is made up as follows:—

CHOTA NAGPORE—	Chota Nagpore	7120	11104·0 by Revenue and Topographical Survey.
	Toree	661	
	Palamow	3620	
HAZARIBAGH			7020·7 by Revenue Survey.
MANBHOOM			5551·9 do. do.
SINGBHOOM			4503·0 by Topographical Survey.
Total Area of Districts. ...			28,179·6 square miles.

Bonai	1296·7	by Topographical Survey.
Chang Bhokar	727·1	by estimation. Survey incomplete.
Gangpur	2809.8	do.
Jushpur	1806·7	do.
Korea	1719·2	do.
Odeypur	770·0	do.
Sirgooja	6103·5	do.
Total Area, Tributary Mehals.	15,212·0	

Grand Total, Area of Chota Nagpore Division, 43,721·6 square miles.

Comparative size.

5. Thus the area of the Chota Nagpore Division is nearly equal to nineteenths that of England; and the Lohardugga District is a country larger than Wales by more than 3,000 square miles. The actual areas are, of England 50,153 and Wales 8,167 square miles.

Limits of Lohardugga District and Area.

6. The District of Lohardugga exclusive of Palamow contains 7,781 square miles. Its northern point is in Lat. 21°-3′, its southern in Lat. 22°-22′; and its eastern and western points lie respectively in East Longitude 85°-56′ and 83°-32′. It is subdivided into forty Pergunnahs, the names of which appear in the table attached to para: 63 of this Report.

Boundaries of Lohardugga District.

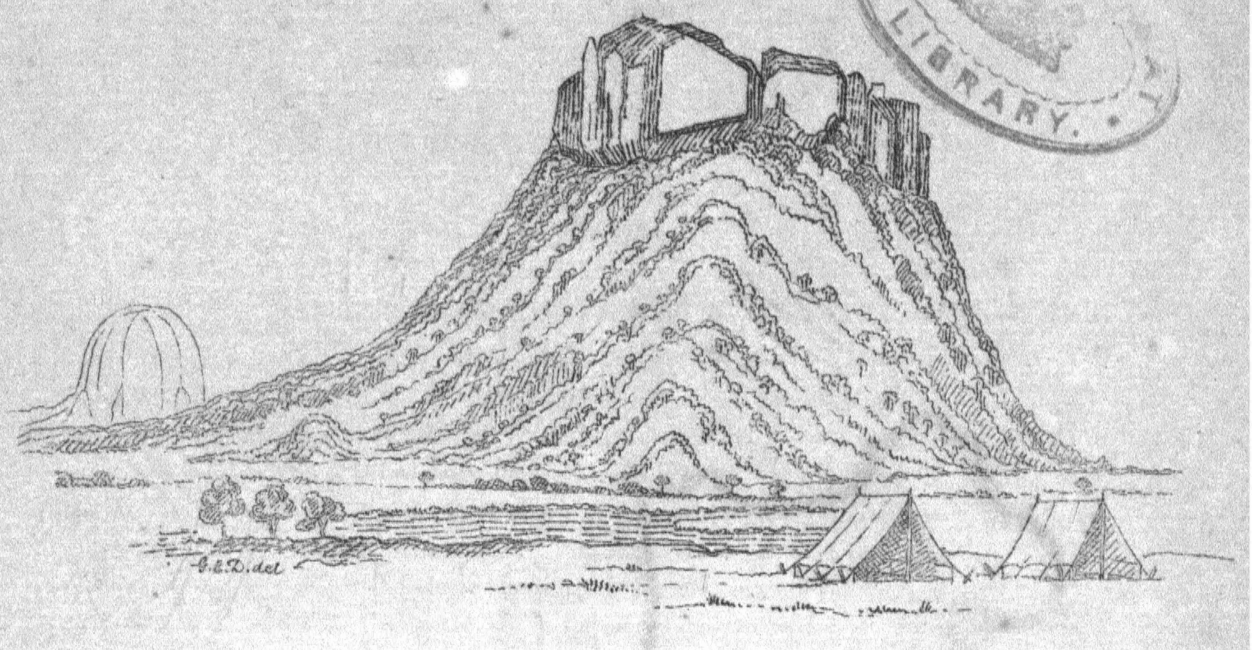
7. The boundaries delineated on the Topographical Survey maps are those shown by the villagers. The marks consist of well-known rocks, stones and trees, where the line conforms to no natural features such as hill-ranges and nullahs. No demarcation was carried out prior to survey except along the Hazaribagh boundary, where masonry platforms were discovered at intervals in a dilapidated condition. The positions of these platforms have been carefully laid down by the Topographical Survey, but intermediate lines were lost in the dense jungle of many parts, so that the boundary delineated by the Revenue and Topographical Surveys is not always identical.

Geological Structure.

8. The rocks throughout the Chota Nagpore estate are of igneous origin; generally of gneiss formation. These assume fantastic forms* and are often piled one on another in an unaccountable manner, as in the case of the remarkable natural pillar standing a mile to the north of Palkote; or they take a globular form rising abruptly from the ground, and looking as if they had been exuded from the earth as a gigantic bubble that had become solid instead of bursting. Rocks of this character pervade the whole of the district except the north-west corner. They form the faces and slopes of the elevated plateaux (to be presently spoken of) and of the isolated hills which crop out of the plain. All these isolated peaks conform to regular lines, which run east and west. An observer stationed on one of these may trace the line as far as the eye can reach by the sharp peaks rising as they are foreshortened, and looking like the teeth of a shark. Again, in the north-west corner, and along the boundary of Jushpur, are to be seen the peculiar hill features called "pats." These hills extend westwards into Sirgooja and Jushpur. They are of a nearly uniform height 3,600 feet above the sea. Looking at them from a distance, their summit is as level and uniform as that of a masonry wall, and they form as perfect an horizon as the sea itself. On a near inspection however they are found to consist of rocky spurs of various heights, with deep valleys and many precipitous ravines radiating from the central mass. The ascent of these pâts is steep. The path winds amongst boulders of rock, or up earthy slopes covered with forest, until 20 or 30 feet of the summit is reached; here a precipitous rock, the edge of a horizontal stratum, bars progress except through some fissure, not seen at first view. This horizontal stratum of trap rock forms a true contour or level line, being visible like a collar on every side of the pât. It in fact gives the pât its form; were it not that it continues to resist the action of rainfall, these pâts would long ago have had their upper soil washed away, and would have put on the form of peaks and ridges common to ordinary hills. On the summits there is generally a small depth of soil overlying the rock, consequently very little can be cultivated; forest trees however do grow, and the slopes of the pâts generally bear heavy timber: with this exception, that the slopes of the latter are destitute of timber, the pâts

* Sketches I & II

SKETCH I.



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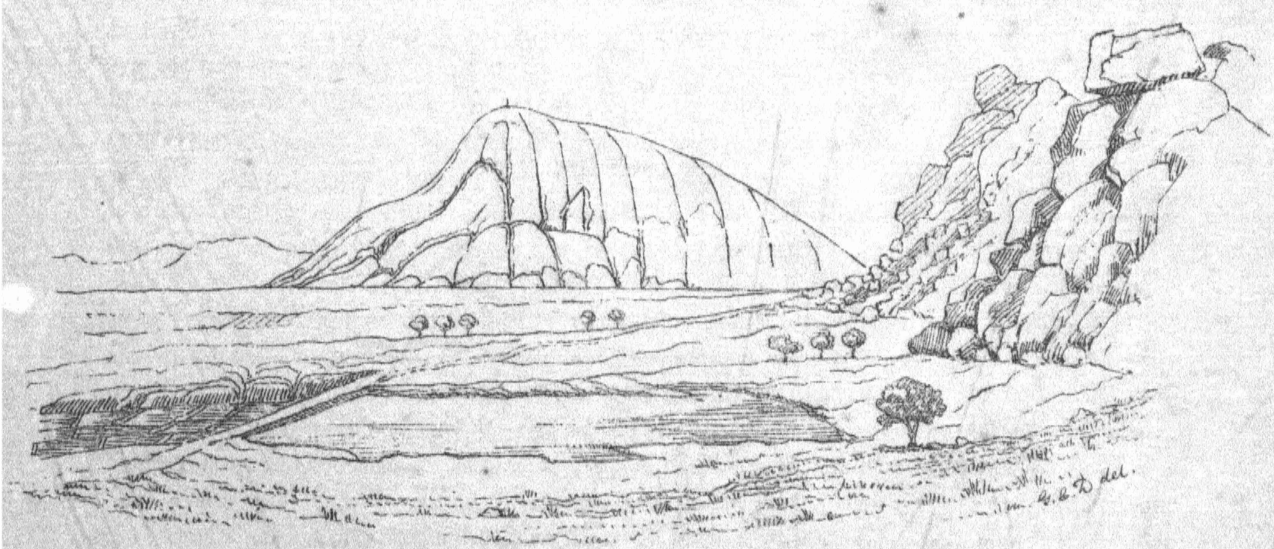
Kinbiva H.S. (2366 Feet above sea level) Western Face

SKETCH II.



Thila H.S. (2577 Feet above sea level) near Koraane Southern Face

SKETCH III.
Hundru Ghag Waterfall 320 Feet

of Chota Nagpore on a small scale bear a strong resemblance to the mountains of Abyssinia about Magdala, as represented in the illustrated periodicals of the day.

Three Plateaux or levels.

9. It is probable that the pâts at an early period were one, and that the mass formed a plateau. If this be so, then Chota Nagpore was formerly made up of three separate levels of 3,600, 2,100 and 800 feet respectively above sea.

2nd Level.

10. The second level upon which Ranchee Station is situated averages 2,100 feet above sea, and has an area of about 4,500 square miles. On the east the fall to the level of 800 feet coincides with the meridian line of about 85°-45′. On the south the ghats run east and west in about latitude 22°-15′: and on the north the plateau abruptly falls to the valley of the Damooda river in Latitude 23° 30′ on an average. On the west the high land runs on into the adjoining countries of Sirgooja and Jushpur; and it forms in short, a part of the great Vyndhia range.

Water sheds.

11. The highest part of the plateau of Chota Nagpore, or second level, lies about eight miles south-west of the Station of Ranchee. Here the ground is 2,500 feet above the sea nearly, and it forms the water-shed from which rise streams that flow into the Bramini on the south, and the Subanrikha river on the east. The northern edge of the plateau above noticed, again, forms the water-shed of the Damooda, the Bramini, and the Subanrikha rivers. And lastly from the undulating ground forming pergunnah Toree, streams flowing to the east, join the Damooda; and those to the west, fall into the Soane.

3rd Level.

12. The third level of 800 feet has nothing remarkable attaching to it. It has no abrupt falls and its principal drainage line, the Subanrikha river, slopes gradually away to the Bay of Bengal.

Heights and Elevations.

13. Sets of Trigonometrical heights have been observed to stations fixed along the main drainage lines of the country, in the towns and on the plateaux to determine the levels of those topical features, in addition to the heights of the Survey hill stations which are ordinarily observed. Thus the mark cut on the Ranchee Church tower is 2,161 feet above sea level. That on the brick house in Lohardugga is 2,213 feet. The Koel river bed station west of Korame, is 2003 feet, it being on the second level; and that on the bank of the Subanrikha, on the third level, at Kusi is 745 feet. The highest hill in the district called Saru is 3,615 feet, this lies in pergunnah Kasmar. The Noterhat pât rises to 3,680 feet; and Biragai or Marangburu, the commanding point and conspicuous object in the view looking north from Ranchee, is 3,115 feet above sea level.

Naming of Hills.

14. The Natives appear never to assign a general name to a range of hills; each point however has its own particular name known to the villagers living close by; and the range or hill is known to those living at a distance by the name of the village lying at its foot.

Natural Aspect and Scenery.

15. There are few countries which present more quiet beauty than Chota Nagpore. During the rainy season and cold weather the purple gneiss rocks contrasting with the green jungle on the near hill-sides, the deep blue of the distant hills, the mango topes with which the country is thickly scattered, the rice cultivation, the bright yellow flowered Sirgooja crops, and the red of the newly turned up soil, form a variety of colour uncommon and striking. There are few spots where some hill features do not form part of the view; the whole country is undulating; and the scenery on the ghats is picturesque, and as grand as hills of 2 to 3,600 feet elevation ever afford.

Waterfalls.

16. The Subanrikha river escaping from the second to the third level forms a picturesque waterfall named Hundru Ghag,* the height of which, as measured by Major Ouseley, formerly Governor General's Agent, is 320 feet. The river does not fall in a sheer drop, but rushes down a rocky chasm. From the top of the fall there is a fine view down the valley of the river. This fall lies in Jushpur pergunnah about 25 miles on the E. N. E. of Ranchee. On the south-east again at about 22 miles distance, the Kanchi river falls nearly perpendicularly over a ledge of rock of the height of 114 feet, as measured by the Topographical Survey; this fall has the name of Dason Ghag. There are other smaller waterfalls on the

* Sketch III.

south of the plateau, but they lie in remote and jungly neighbourhoods, and are therefore seldom visited.

17. Except iron which is found amongst the pâts in the nodular form as well as in other places, no metals exist. Lime is obtained in small quantities in the shape of "Kunkur" or "Gooteen"; and occasionally amongst the ghats collections of infiltrated lime-stone called "ghattee" are obtained; this gives a very pure lime suitable for white washing. The Ooriyas call this "asurhad" or demon's bones, from its resemblance to those imaginary substances. On the south-east of the district near Terai, soap stone is quarried, and turned in a rough lathe into plates, which are exported to neighbouring districts. The workers of this stone, as well as the smelters of iron, are a miserably poor class.

Minerals.

18. The soil is of a bright red colour. It becomes intensely hard under exposure to the sun, so that houses are always built in Ranchee of Kucha bricks. Burnt bricks however seem always to be friable and bad, the clay being unsuitable.

Soil.

19. The climate of the high land of Chota Nagpore is perhaps superior to that of any other part of India except the Hills. There is no very hot weather, and that extends over only fifteen days, or at most six weeks, between 20th April and 10th June, about which date the rainy season commences, and no more hot weather, comparatively speaking, is felt until the following hot season. The rains cease about the first week in October; but they are irregular, sometimes commencing and closing earlier than the dates named. In the cold weather the thermometer falls to freezing point occasionally; and hoar frost is deposited commonly between 15th November and 15th February. The abstract of Temperatures quoted below is obtained from the records of the Jail Hospital in Ranchee extending over the years 1860 to 1867 inclusive, and may be considered trustworthy. It gives an annual mean minimum of 68.55 degrees, and a maximum or rather a mean noon reading of 81°. 23. The general mean of these two values represents a temperature of 74°. 89, remarkable as referring to a land lying within the tropics. As usual, May is the hottest month, but then even cool nights prevail, and with the temperature of 78°, and a punkah, the European has little to complain of. The records of rain fall at the jail have also been carefully tabulated, but they are evidently unreliable, and it would only mislead to quote them. The returns of rainfall here given is obtained from Colonel Tweedie of the Madras Army, who has kept a systematic series of observations from 1st August 1867 to 31st July 1868. It will be seen that rain falls in most months of the year.

Climate

Mean Temperature

Rainfall.

Abstract of Thermometric Readings observed during the years 1860 *to* 1867 *inclusive, at the Jail Hospital, Ranchee. The Rainfall measurements extended from* 1*st August* 1867 *to* 31*st July* 1868, *and were made by Colonel Tweedie, Madras Army.*

Months.	Thermometer Mean Readings.		Rain fall in inches.	
	6 A. M.	Noon.		
January	54°.6	68°.8	1.35	
February	59.1	75.8	1.00	
March	67.7	83.7	0.25	
April	75.9	92.9	0.00	
May	78.4	94.8	3.15	
June	78.3	90.4	16.45	
July	75.9	82.3	12.60	
August	75.0	81.6	16.84	
September	74.7	82.5	6.00	
October	69.3	81.1	5.90	
November	60.9	71.8	0.00	
December	53.7	69.1	0.75	
Annual Mean Temperature,	68.55	81.23		

General Annual Mean Temperature 74°·89

Total Rain-fall of 1867-68 Inches 64.29

23. Cultivation in Chota Nagpore is of the primitive kind. The soil is turned by the ordinary wooden plough, costing annas eight, with an embedded iron coulter; and the terraces confining the wet cultivation are made with the "phoura" or heavy hoe, which the Coles use with a long handle and a swinging stroke. The wet terraced cultivation, called "dhoin" occupies the indentations between each swell of ground; it runs often in long narrow strips, which, converging in the lower ground, form a broad sheet of terraced land, each field of which is irrigated by the water collected in the narrow strips from the high grounds: this water when it has done its duty, passes off into the nullah which is below every series of cultivation of this kind. The appearance of such a series of cultivation as pourtrayed on a map may be likened to that of a hand and fingers. The high ground beyond the reach of irrigation bears the light crops above enumerated, it is called "tarnd". One crop a year only is taken from the land. The wet crop is sown in May and June and reaped in November; the only cultivation consists of a few ploughings during the year. To enrich the upland soil, manure, collected in pits along-side their dwellings, is employed to a small extent; the Coles however waste great quantities of this fertilizer by allowing it to be burnt as fuel in the cold season.

Modes of cultivation, Wet or Dhoin.

Dry, Gora or Tarnd

24. The cattle, cows and buffaloes, are miserably small: no attempt to regulate the breeding is made, and by the time the annual rains fall, the animals are reduced to skeletons, owing to the grazing lands being burnt up by the sun. By this time the rice straw has been expended which might have helped the cattle to tide over the hot month; but no particular care of this fodder is taken: it is not stacked but allowed to be trodden under foot, and in the cold weather it is even burnt for the sake of its caloric. Goats are common, sheep much less so; they are both of the small country breed. Probably if animals of better caste were introduced, they would die or become degenerate unless stall-fed during the annual drought of May. Except fowls of the common barndoor kind, no geese, ducks or other poultry are reared by the villagers.

Cattle and Poultry.

25. The prices of staple commodities are now as follows: during the last twelve years they have doubled.

Prices of principal products

Common Rice ...	Usna (boiled) ...	...	25 seers per rupee.	
	Arua (unboiled)	...	16 do. do.	
Mandua ...	... ...	...	37 do. do.	
Gundli ...	... (Husks removed)	...	37 do. do.	These are obtainable only immediately after harvest.
Indian Corn...	... ...	...	16 do. do.	
Oorid or Kalai	... ...	...	30 do. do.	
Sirgooja seed	... ...	...	25 do. do.	
Mustard-seed	... ...	...	20 do. do.	
Fowls ...	...(full grown)...	...	one anna each.	
Goats ...	... ...	...	twelve annas each.	

26. The following particulars of the land tenure of Chota Nagpore have been principally obtained from a letter by Mr. J. Davidson, Principal Assistant Governor General's Agent, who wrote on this and other subjects in 1839. This letter has been largely extracted from in this Report. Many other items of cognate information have been collated by Mr. C. W. Hawes, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who has considerable experience of the district; and their accuracy has been attested by Captain R. C. Money, Officiating Deputy Commissioner at the present date.

Land Tenure Authorities quoted.

27. The custom of remote ages was that whoever cleared the land from jungle became the owner rent-free, rendering only in return to the head of the village such services as the common good required. These pioneers were the ancestors of the race called Coles in the present day, who form by far the greatest number of the population, and who are commonly known as the labourers who emigrate to Assam and the sugar colonies of England and France. They are divided into two large tribes, the Moondas and Ooraons; the name Cole meaning simply a low caste person.——Rent however came gradually to be paid by each village,

Land tenure & occupation.

20. On the slopes of the ghats, amongst the hills generally, and on the undulating lands on the south edge of the District, forests exist. The pergunnah of Biru is a vast forest. All Chota Nagpore must at an early period have been thus covered, as the "Sarnas", or sacred groves of the Coles to be found near many villages, consisting of a few ancient and noble Sal trees, the only remains of the primeval forest, seem to bear evidence. There are to be found the jungle trees common to lower Bengal, but the "Sal" or "Saukua" is the only timber tree of importance, and it forms the bulk of all the forests. As no kind of conservancy has been attempted, the Sal forests are gradually but surely disappearing. Where the timber is valuable for railway and other purposes, indiscriminate cutting is taking place; and where the difficulty of carriage is great, the value of the tree is at present nothing, and the collectors of "dammer" or "dhuna" are allowed to destroy it without mercy. This gum "dhuna" is obtained by the simple expedient of ringing the tree. A zone six inches wide is cut away from the bark near the base of the tree, leaving a thin strip of bark only, by which the tree sustains its vitality for a few years. This strip is eventually cut and the tree dies. The gum exudes from the cicatrizing bark, and is scraped off, and collected every rainy season. The desiccated trunks of the trees thus killed stand for years, until at last they fall under the repeated attacks of the jungle fires, which sweep every hot weather over the whole country, burning grass, saplings, and dry timber. Hence a Sal forest once destroyed is not renewed: in its place grow up bamboos in some soils, and useless jungle in others. Again, the hill tribes cultivate the virgin soil only; to obtain it they clear large tracts of forest, and as they occupy ground only one or two seasons, the work of destruction is always in progress.

Forest. Destruction of Forest. Collection of Dhuna gum.

21. The fruit of the Sal tree is used as food by the poor in seasons of scarcity. The "Jamun" berry and the bean of the "Chobe" creeper are also eaten. The "Mohua" tree is planted about all the villages, and is of not small value; its corolla containing much saccharine matter forms a regular part of the food of the people, and from it all the country spirit is distilled; the refuse is then given to the cattle. From the seed again an oil is expressed. The "Karanj" bean produces oil, and the tree is common. On the leaves of the "Asun," the Tusseh silk worm is fed; and on the twigs of the "Koosum" the lac insect is propagated. Most of the fruit trees seen in Indian gardens appear to grow in Chota Nagpore, but none of them bear in great perfection, except perhaps the "Jack" tree. The "Cheer" fir of the Himalayas is to be seen in some of the gardens, and tea cultivation is likely to succeed. There are two tea gardens, one at Palandu, the other at Hotwar, both are about six miles from Ranchee on the S E and N E respectively. Coffee also grows and fruits fairly once in three years, but it has never been scientifically cultivated.

Fruit trees.

22. Rice is the staple production of the country, as it is the main food of the people. It is grown on the terraced fields which occupy all the low grounds of Chota Nagpore, as well as on the high lands as an early crop cut in October. Bearded wheat and barley are produced in small quantities only. Other cereals are grown on the high lands, viz. Kodo, Marua, Gundli, &c., and these form the food of the poorest class, eked out with rice, the dried flower of the mohua, and the mango in their seasons. The "Sirgooja," a species of Sunflower, is the crop of second importance; it grows on the high lands, requires little cultivation, and is cut in October. It is a valuable oil producer, the seed being rich in an oil which is eaten by the natives as a condiment instead of ghee: the seed is exported in bulk in large quantities. Of pulses "Chonna" is grown to a small extent, and "Oorid" or "Kalai" more largely: the latter is cut in October and the former in February. The ordinary field products of India may be seen in small patches in Chota Nagpore, but they are of no importance: for instance, Tobacco is planted in the beds of streams or on the old refuse heaps about the homesteads. Scarcely any sugar-cane and no Indigo is cultivated, but cotton is grown for home consumption; the quality has never been improved by high cultivation. Shellac and Laedye of first class quality are manufactured by a Company established in Dorunda: and Tea cultivation is being brought into notice; the produce is delicate of flavour, and fetches a high price in the market; and labour in Chota Nagpore being so cheap there would seem to be a great probability of the cultivation proving remunerative. The gardens have however been only lately established. The flavour of the coffee grown is good, but its cultivation has not hitherto been successful as a speculation.

Productions

but the right of property in a village was long recognised as appertaining to the head Moonda. The Moondas eventually elected a chief, and styled him Raja, who in time became Hindooised. It was then the object of the Raja to induce other Hindoos to settle. This could only be done by granting villages, and thus many foreign proprietors were established, who formed a sort of military force capable of acting against neighbouring Rajas, and of controlling the Coles. In time this more civilised race obtained possession of nearly the whole of the villages of the country. Now, in the more open parts of Chota Nagpore, there are no Cole proprietors: on the east however bordering on Manbhoom there are some Moonda families, who are hereditary land-owners, and who are assuming Hindoo customs. Thus from the several Rajas have all holders of lands obtained their title. There is one exception only in the case of Sonpur Pergunna. This H. M. Government confiscated in 1858 as a punishment to the owner, a scion of the Raja's family, who took part with the mutineers and who closed his career on the gallows. On the death of all the members of the Sonpur family, an unlikely event as they are numerous, the Pergunna will revert to the Raja. The present occupant of the *guddee* of Chota Nagpore has not been entrusted with Magisterial powers in his own country, but his nephew, the Burra Lal of Palkote, has received this mark of distinction.

Classes of land-owners.

28. The three classes of men to whom the several Rajas have granted lands are.—

I. Their younger brothers and their descendants. On a Raja succeeding to the estate, his younger brothers always receive a grant of land subject to a small rent.

II. Rajpoots, Rowtias, Burraicks, &c., foreigners to Chota Nagpore, who hold jageers granted originally for the performance of military service, but at a fixed rate of rent. These services, not now being required, a somewhat higher rent is paid in lieu of them.

III. Brahmins and others, who have got grants generally by purchase or for the satisfaction of debt, for fixed rents, and sometimes rent-free: and often grants of rent-free lands have been made for religious purposes.

Tenure of Land-owners.

29. All lands except those for religious grants are held on "pootradik" tenures: i. e. he grantee and his direct male descendants retain possession as long as they pay the stipulated rent. On failure of sons or grandsons the Raja resumes the land. In consequence of the feudal service formerly exacted by the Raja having become nominal, there is a stipulation in most of the pottas for the payment of "abwabs." These are uncertain in their amount, yet they sometimes exceed the rent. (They will be described later.)

Rights of resumption by the Raja.

30. The right of resumption was formerly exercised with great forbearance by the Rajas, for the reason that they could only continue in possession of their estates by having the support of their land-owners, whose good will it was necessary to conciliate: they therefore renewed to collateral descendants any lapsed grants, levying a small fine or "bundeapun." Under the protection of the British government, however, the Rajas are secure in their possession, consequently such forbearance is unnecessary, and is not now observed.

Abwabs.

31. The only "abwabs" paid willingly by the Coles are, that called "Agra" by the Bhoonyers which varies from Rs. 3 to 6 according to the size of the holding:—the "Dussera salami" generally amounting to one rupee:—and "purkhai" of about one per cent:—also two goats; one called "jheeka," presented at the Dussera, and the other "mungoor pooja," given whenever it is demanded. In addition in some villages, particularly where the Raja has a "bhandar" or storehouse, it is customary to pay the ryots one rupee, and to take in exchange ten tambies ($1\frac{1}{2}$ seers each) of ghee. Also when the Raja requires goats, he favours all villages indiscriminately by taking as many as he likes, and at the same time making a nominal payment to the owners of three annas a head. In the same way buffaloes for sacrifice are taken, and paid for at the rate of one-fifth their real value. "Peadas" * are employed in levying "abwabs;" they receive "tulubana" from the ryots, and having a discretionary power as to whose goat

* Servants of the Rajah.

they take, they are not above receiving bribes. Notwithstanding that this tax is liable to great abuse, it could not be done away with without inflicting great injury on the Raja: "abwabs" are his prescriptive right.

Kinds of cultivated Lands

32. The following descriptions of lands are cultivated and are found in all villages:—

I. "Rujhus," or land paying rent to the owner.

II. "Bhetkheta," a portion of "rujhus," which each ryot, not a Bhoonyer, is allowed to cultivate free of rent, for which he performs service, such as thatching the owner's house, cultivating his land (as described below) "Bhetkhetta" is sufficient to sow 20 to 40 seers of seed.

III. "Jageers" to the Mahto, Pahn, &c., free of rent for service.

IV. "Manjhis," ground reserved by the landlord or his theekadar or farmer.

V. "Bhoonyari" land held rent-free by the descendants of the original clearers. It has different names in some parts of the country, viz. "baibulla" "areawt," and "khontkutty." The holders are bound to accompany land-owners or theekadars on journeys to carry their "bhangees," to cultivate the "manjhis" ground, and to thatch and build their houses, without receiving payment. Sometimes the land pays rent, but never more than half the ordinary rate.

VI. "Bhootkhetta," land held rent-free by the village community for the support of religious festivals; and a part of it called "dale khetari" is given to the Pahn of the village.

33. The above named lands are exclusively wet rice fields or "dhoin". To every piece of "dhoin" is attached a certain portion of "tarnd" or dry cultivation land. If ryots cultivate more upland than this portion they pay rent in kind, or the same quantity of grain as the quantity of seed sown; this is called "maswar",—or sometimes they pay in money.

34. The zeminder cannot remove his theekadar except the latter has fallen into arrears of rent. The land-owner or theekadar cannot charge higher rent than has been customary; neither can he eject an old cultivator as long as he is willing to pay rent.

Feudal labour due by Ryots.

35. The established amount of labour, which the Coles are obliged to give the owner for their "bhetkhetta" or Bhoonyari land, is three days ploughing; the same number of days' work with the "kodal" or hoe in planting season, and in harvest, or altogether twelve days' work. They have also to bring bamboos and grass and to do the thatching of his house, and occasionally to carry his "bhangees". All this service the Coles acknowledg to be due from them. But sometimes proprietors cultivate a large piece of "manjhis" taking forced labour without measure; this is unjustifiable.

Bhoonyers and their Lands.

36. The Bhoonyers attach great value to the possession of their "bhoonyeri" lands. If one of them dies childless, or leaves the village, the owner takes possession, and includes the "bhoonyeri" land in his "manjhis"; but when he returns he is fully entitled to receive back his land on the old tenure. They are always buried in the villages where their lands are; and their heirs consider it a pious act to bring their ashes, and lay them in the resting places of their forefathers.

Cole village community.

37. A Cole village community consists of the Moonda, Mahto, Pahn, and Gwalla, and in the large villages of the Bhandari, Gorait, and Blacksmith. There are neither Hajams; the Coles do not require much shaving which they perform themselves with a razor made of the soft country iron, the edge being obtained by beating out:—nor Dhobees, for the men do not indulge much in dress of any kind, and the women wash for themselves.

The Moonda.

38. The Moonda is the chief of the Bhoonyers and is generally considered the representative of the old Moonda head of the village, and in all matters of discussion his opinion has much weight; besides he is the person through whom demands upon the Bhoonyers are made by the owner of the village, whether of money or labour. He receives no remuneration besides his "bhoonyeri" lands.

The Mahto.

39. The Mahto is the most important person in the village. He assigns the land to the ryots, and gives the "gotee", or lump of earth, (to be afterwards referred to in para. 44). He collects the rent; pays it to the owner; settles any disputes as to the amount of rent owed by the ryots,—and in short is the person, upon whom the settlement of all the pecuniary affairs of the village depends. He receives one "pawa" of "rujhus" free of rent as his jageer. The office of Mahto is filled at the will of the owner, it is neither hereditary nor permanent. In some villages he gets one or two piece from each ryot annually. The Mahto's evidence is conclusive in a dispute between a proprietor and a ryot; being a Cole he seldom lends himself to deal unfairly with either side.

The Pahn.

40. The Pahn is a person of influence, also whose duty it is to perform all the religious ceremonies of the village; for this he receives a jageer called "dalikhetari." The office is frequently hereditary.

The Bhandari.

41. The Bhandari is a sort of agent through whom the owner's orders to the ryots are made known. He gets any work done through them that may be in hand; he assists the Mahto in making collections and causes the ryots to attend upon him. He is remunerated by a "jageer" of one "pawa" rent-free, and from each ryot three "karaes," or bundles of the crop as it is cut down, consisting of one karae each of goondlee, goradhan, and wet crop rice; each bundle consists of about ten seers.

The Gorait & Kotewar.

42. The Gorait is the messenger of the village and gets an allowance of from ten to twenty seers of "dhan" or rice in the husk from each ryot, also three "karaes." The Kotewar is the guardian of the village.

The Gwalla and Blacksmith.

43. These necessary servants of the village receive a "kat" or maund of dhan for each plough, and three "karaes" from each ryot. The Gwalla is responsible for all stolen cattle.

Customary mode of taking and giving possession.

44. When a theekadar takes possession of a village, on the day appointed he proceeds to the "akra" or place of assembly of the village, where he is met by the Mahto, Pahn, &c., and as many of the ryots as choose to attend. He then writes down agreeably to the dictation of the Mahto the account of the cultivation of the different old ryots, noting down the number of "pawas" and the rent. Afterwards arrangements with new ryots are made; the quantity of land and the rent are fixed upon, and a "gotee" or lump of the soil is given to them as a sort of bind-bargain; and in the same way a blade of "dhoob" grass is given on the sale of cattle being effected. The old ryots do not receive a "gotee" at this time unless they require to take up new land. The Mahto, who acts in the transaction as the conveyancer, being a Cole, is unable to read or write; however his dictum is always accepted by both sides.

Land measure

45. There is no uniform land measure in Chota Nagpore. The Mahto distributes and measures the holdings by eye only. Four "pawas" are nominally equal to one "kharee," and eight kharees to one "bhuree," but a "pawa" is quite an arbitrary area. In some cases it is sufficient to sow two maunds of seed, in others ten or twelve maunds. The above description applies to wet cultivation. The dry cultivation is estimated by "kats," and one "kat" admits of one maund of seed being sown.

Rents paid by ryots to landowners.

46. The ryots who are simple cultivators pay the landowner Rs. 2 to 16 according to the fertility of the fields they occupy; the rent may be said therefore to average Rs. 5 for each "pawa" of "rujhus" land. To each "pawa" of "dhoin" is attached one kat of "gora" or "tarnd" (as shown in para. 33) for which no separate rent is demanded. If more upland is occupied by a ryot, he pays four annas in money for each "kat"; or else in kind as much grain at harvest as he sowed down on the ground. Bhoonyers, when they pay rent at all, pay one half of the above rates.

Labour employed and its remuneration in 1868.

47. In addition to the feudal labour due from the ryots to their land-owners, when extra work is required other farm labourers are retained under the well-known name of "dhangars." These may be men of any caste who engage to serve by the year. They are paid generally in kind at the rate of three "pailas" of rice in husk or two "pailas" of coarse rice; or in the proper season they get three "pailas" of goondlee, or two of

mundua. In addition to this daily subsistence they receive a bonus once a year of Rs. 1, 2, or 3 to purchase a cloth. The paila may be considered to hold about nine chittacks; and twelve to sixteen chittacks being the allowance of food required by a working man, the "dhangars" can save on their rations.

Wages in 1868.

48. Occasional labourers are paid in cash two pice, or a half anna a day in the country; and in the towns one anna; and latterly five pice have been paid. At the present time Cole coolies who work in the gardens of Europeans receive two rupees' pay a month. The labour they give is not hard, but it is rendered during the seven days in the week, and the men turn their hands to any thing.

Wages in 1839.

49. In 1839 a ploughman received annually Rs. 2 or 3 wages and eighteen "kats" or maunds of rice, also a small bundle of rice in the straw for each day during harvest: also in some parts a "kurae" or armful of ten seers every third day. A labourer for one whole day's harvesting got a "kurae," and a woman half a "kurae," each containing 15 to 20 seers.

Increase of Wages during the last thirty years.

50. A careful comparison of the above given rates, also a further personal enquiry, shows that the price of labour has not materially varied since 1839. The payment in money instead of in kind is however a benefit to the labourer.

Emigrants and Castes making up the population.

51. During late years large numbers of the inhabitants of Chota Nagpore have emigrated to Assam and Kachar. They have been principally Dhangars or the poorest of all castes. When the Bhoonyars, who have hereditary rights in the soil, have sought their fortunes in distant lands, they have left some member of their families to take care of their fields, or else they have previously made away with their rights, or they have gone to escape from their creditors, the money lenders. A record having been kept under the Act of all emigrants from 1864, an abstract thereof up to the end of 1867, is here inserted, showing that 12,369 able bodied men and women, and children, have left the country in those years, or one per centum of the whole population (see para. 95). None however for the Mauritius or other foreign colonies have been registered. The main interest attaching to the abstract, perhaps, is that it shows the names of the different castes making up the working population of Chota Nagpore. Moreover, considering that all castes have alike felt the tendency towards emigration, the number of emigrants of any one caste may be assumed as the ratio, which that caste bears in number and importance to other castes, and to the whole community, as represented by the total number of emigrants of all castes.

Abstract of Names of Castes, and corresponding Numbers of Emigrants from Chota Nagpore to Assam and Kachar from January 1861 to December 1867, obtained from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Ranchee.

Names of Castes.	Number.	Names of Castes.	Number	Names of Castes.	Number.
Aghria	19	Dhanook	10	Lohuria	48
Asoor	45	Dhobee	21	Mali	39
Bania	81	Dome	475	Moonda	3,986
Bare	34	Dosadh	112	Malhor	7
Bedya	108	Ghasi	219	Mussulman	198
Beldar	64	Gwala	618	Ooraon	1,058
Birhore	14	Hajam	28	Paik	43
Birjia	9	Halwai	5	Pasee	7
Bhogta	316	Jhora	2	Panka	1
Bhoonyar	1,546	Kahar	133	Rajpoot	68
Bhoomij	9	Kandoo	10	Rowtia	117
Bostum	5	Kayest	30	Sontal	84
Bowree	7	Kherwar	265	Soori	191
Burhee	14	Khuria	63	Sowasi	23
Byeragee	40	Koeri	89	Shorak	2
Brahmin	3	Kumhar	72	Teli	112
Chero	37	Kurmi	267	Teteyra	4
Christian	45	Kuroa	9	Tanti	392
Chumar	115	Kusurwani	1		
Chuttry	1	Lohar	958		

Total number of Emigrants from 1864 to 1867 ... . 12,369.

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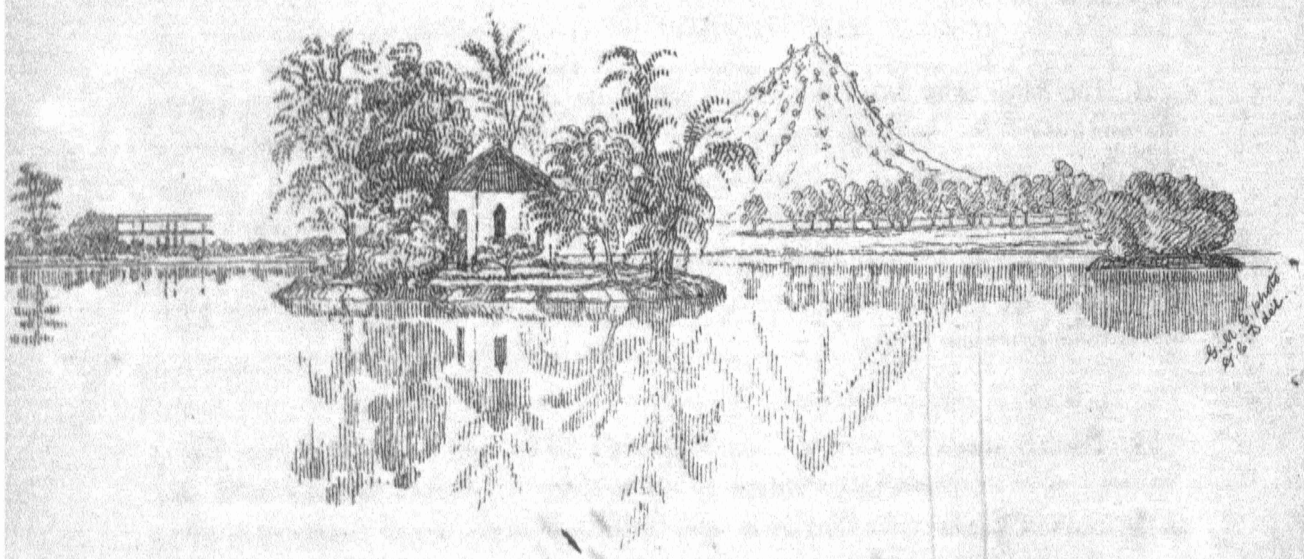
SKETCH IV.



Ranchee Lake & Hill (2423 Feet above sea-level)

WATER.

52. There are no navigable rivers in Lohardugga. The principal rivers are the Subanrekha which rises ten miles S. W. of Ranchee, flows northwards and eastwards, and leaving the second level or plateau rushes over a picturesque waterfall called Hundrughag.* From this point it forms the boundary with Hazaribagh, its course being eastwards, to the triple boundary junction with Manbhoom. Here it tends southwards and is the boundary line until the Singbhoom district is reached after a course of 100 miles. Its main confluents are the Karkari and Kanchi rivers; the former has a course of 78 miles, and the latter of 55 miles. Besides these there are numerous feeders which rise in the ghats and second level, and ordinarily ankle deep, become impassable after a few hours' rain.

Rivers, The Subanrekha.

53. The Koel river.—There are two rivers of this name, the one flows north from its source in the Burwah hills, and after a course of 40 miles, enters the Palamow district and eventually joins the Soane. The other Koel drains the greater part of Chota Nagpore; it flows southward and joining with the Sunk river, the united stream under the name of the Bramini enters the sea on the north-east of Cuttack. The Karo, the Deo, and many minor streams are the feeders of the Koel, which has a length of 185 miles from its source to its junction with the Sunk in the Gangpur estate. The course of the Sunk is 120 miles.*

Koel of Palamo.

The Koel of Chota Nagpore and Sunk.

54. The Subanrekha drains the eastern part of the district, the Koel, the central, and the Sunk, the western. They all possess rocky barriers, in different parts of their courses, which resisting the erosive action of their streams, prevent the levels of the country undergoing change to any perceptible extent. The area drained by the Subanrekha is 1,750 square miles, that by the Koel 3,600, the Sunk 1,100, and the Palamow Koel 550 square miles. These figures apply to the district of Chota Nagpore, and not to the adjoining districts whose waters these rivers also receive.

The areas drained by Rivers.

55. The only vessels employed in Chota Nagpore are the hollowed out trunks of trees. Two of these canoes tied side by side form the ferry-boat on the Subanrekha river on the road to Calcutta: it is poled across when the strength of the stream permits it to ply: a traveller's palkee is placed athwart and midships, and the passage is not a little perilous and alarming. Fortunately except during the rains the rivers are all fordable.

Vessels employed.

56. There are no natural lakes in Chota Nagpore. On the west of and close to the town of Ranchee there is an ornamental piece of water covering 48 acres. It has been cleverly constructed by running an embankment across a natural undulation of the ground.†

57. There are no canals; and no irrigation, besides allowing the water of the high lands to flow over the low-lying fields, is carried on. In the few gardens cultivated by the Koeries, the usual contrivance of a crossbeam raised and moving on pivots, with a rope and bucket at one end, and a counterpoise at the other, is worked by one man, who stands over the well and uses his hands only in alternating the motion.

58. The water being generally near the surface, wells are uncommon. The drinking water of the inhabitants is obtained from natural springs called "darees", which rise in the low grounds, generally therefore in the paddy fields, and are perennial. The water is found on or just below the surface, and it is protected from contamination by a wooden frame work let into the ground, or by the hollow stem of a tree sunk and fixed upright. Tanks excavated at the charge of the Hindoo land-owners are to be found about the large villages. Embanked reservoirs, or "bands", are easily constructed and they are said to repay the cost of construction in three

* Sketch III. † Sketch IV.

years by the rent of extra land which is brought into cultivation by their means. Were the Coles enterprising cultivators, every finger of cultivation, spoken of in para. 23, would have its embankment of a few feet in height thrown across it to secure a permanent supply of water.

CITIES.

Towns and Villages.

59. Cities there are none in Chota Nagpore; and the towns are a mere collection of mudhuts, (sometimes tiled but generally thatched) and are scarcely worthy of the name. Ranchee consists of 1,580 houses, Palkote of 1,500, Bundu of 772, Tamar of 600, Pitorea of 502, and Sonahatu of 500. There is no village of 400 houses, but there are thirteen of 300, seventy-one of 200, sixty-one of 100, and seven thousand and twenty nine villages of all sizes containing less than 100 houses, in the Chota Nagpore estate, omitting Torce pergunna, and Palamow sub-division of which no returns are available.

Markets and shops.

60. Except a few small shops for the sale of cloth and sundries in the town of Ranchee, no others are established in Chota Nagpore. In the largest villages the vendors of grain display their samples as usual in front of their huts: and in a good many old established villages weekly markets are held under the groves of mangoes, where assemble the surrounding population, who come from long distances, to get salt, brass vessels, cloth, and ornaments, in exchange for their baskets of grain.

Description of villages.

61. The villages occupy the crests of the undulating grounds, and have their cultivated lands around them. The average number of houses in each village of Chota Nagpore is nineteen, as shown in para 63. The houses are small, built of mud and thatched with grass; each one with its cowshed and pigstye forms a sort of courtyard. They are placed without order or reference to their neighbours, and deep manure holes, from which the material for constructing the walls of the huts was excavated, lie conveniently adjacent. The plan of the houses is always rectangular and the roofs have gable ends. Outside in the case of the older villages are mango topes, but newer villages are bare, for the Coles of the present day do not plant these trees. The houses of the Mahajans and landowners are often roofed with tiles, and there are perhaps a dozen puckha houses in the district including the residence of the Raja.

The Raja of Chota Nagpore's Gurh.

62. There once was a palace worthy of the lord of a country of 8000 square miles at Doisa, but it is now fast falling into ruins.* The house is five storied and of brick; the temples and buildings around are of elegantly carved granite. An inscription cut on one of the stones shows the place to have been built in 1721 Sambat, or two hundred and five years ago: it is snugly ensconced between rocky hills, and is now deserted and enveloped in briars and thorns. The legend goes that after Raja Rugonath Sai built the Gurh he lived there for a few years only and left it at the bidding of a Brahmin, who declared the place unlucky. The Raja afterwards lived at Palkote,† selecting that spot on account of a perennial stream which issues from the rocky hill side; there he built himself a holy cell, so that he could drink, and perform his devotions with the aid of, the water pure, and uncontaminated by his subjects, who lived in the town below. The buildings here are extensive but devoid of all architectural interest. The Raja has within the last few years changed his residence to Bhounro, he having discovered that Palkote was ill-omened as his ancestor found Doisa to have been.

Number of Houses in Chota Nagpore.

63. The number of houses in Chota Nagpore omitting Torce pergunna is 139,116, as obtained from the village lists compiled by the Topographical Surveyors while delineating the country, which lists are based on the verbal information furnished by the village authorities, and written down on the spot. As there would seem to be no reason why the Moondas and Mahtos should conceal or exaggerate the true size of their villages, the numbers may be assumed to be fairly accurate. The number of inhabited villages is 7170, and the average village contains 19·4 houses. The following table shows particulars.

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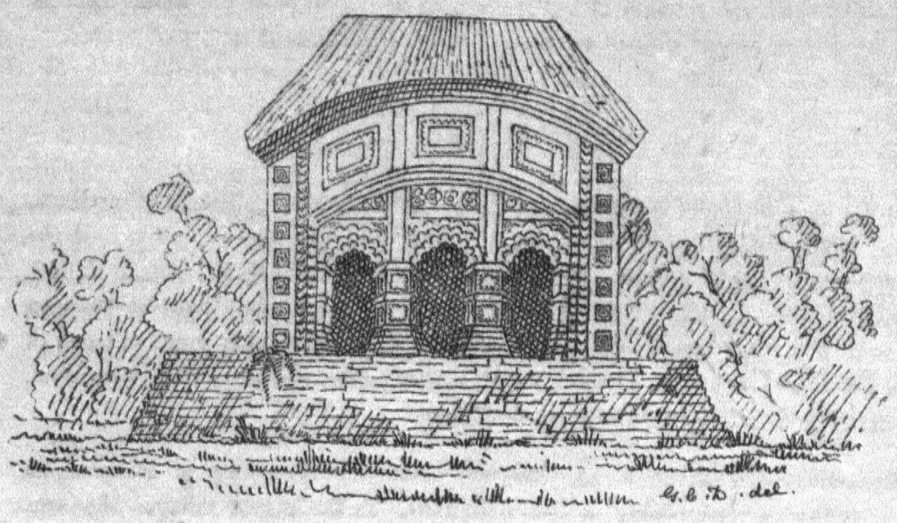
* Sketches V. VII VIII and X

† Sketch VI.

SKETCH V.



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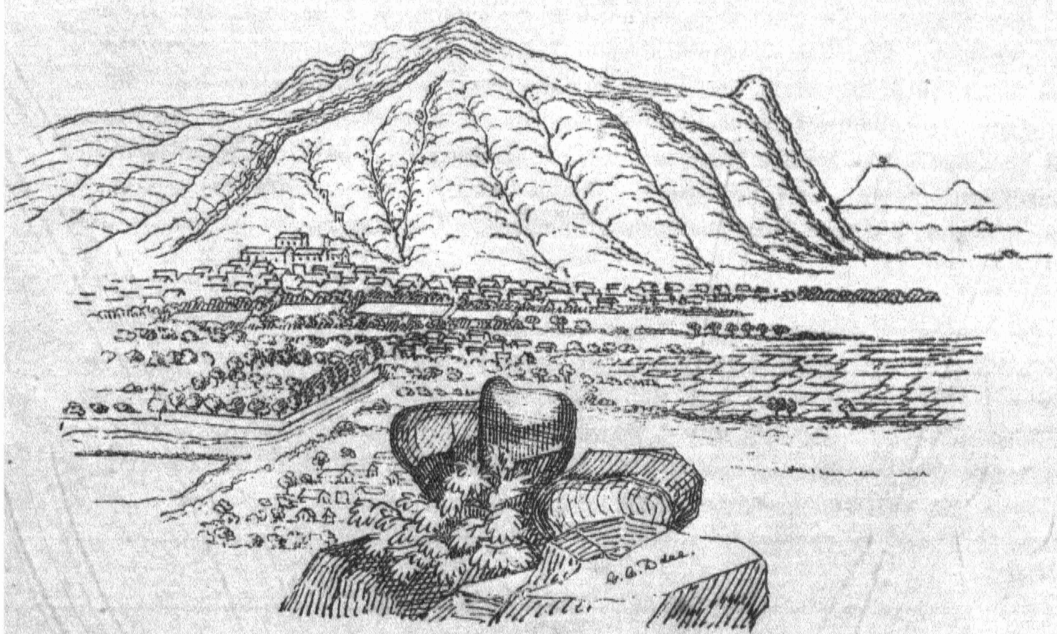
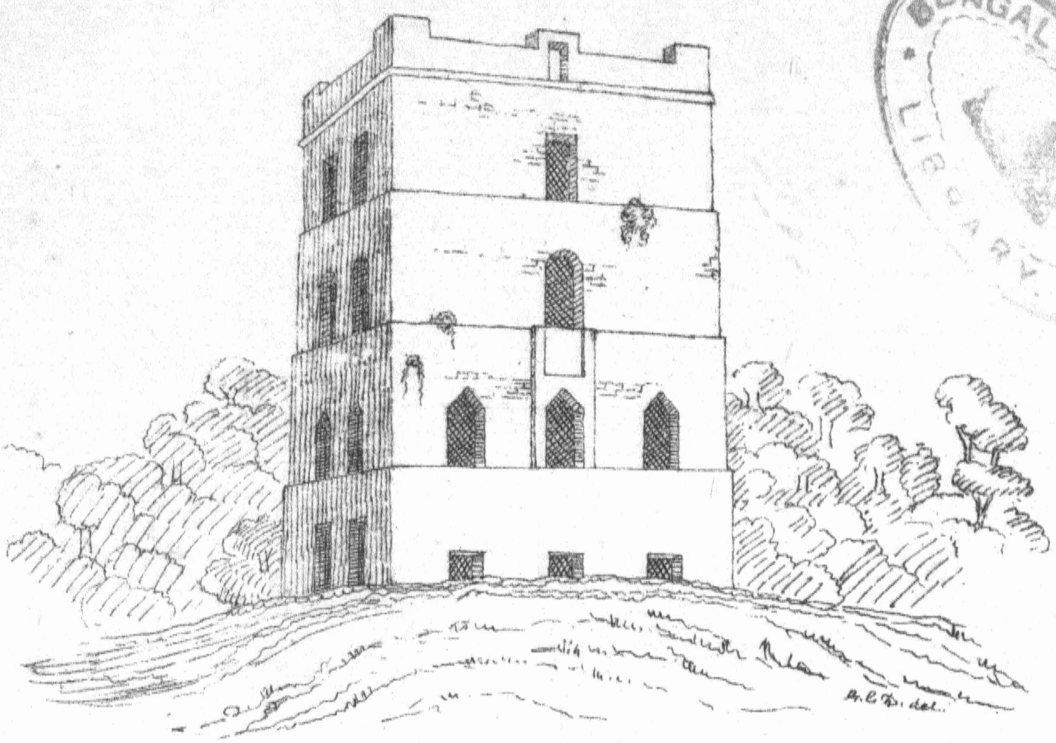
Dhobi Math Doisa

SKETCH VI.



Palkote (from the Faheer's Rock on the N.E.

SKETCH VII.



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Palace Doisa (A.D. 1664)

SKETCH VIII

Kapilnath Math Doisa A.D. 1653.

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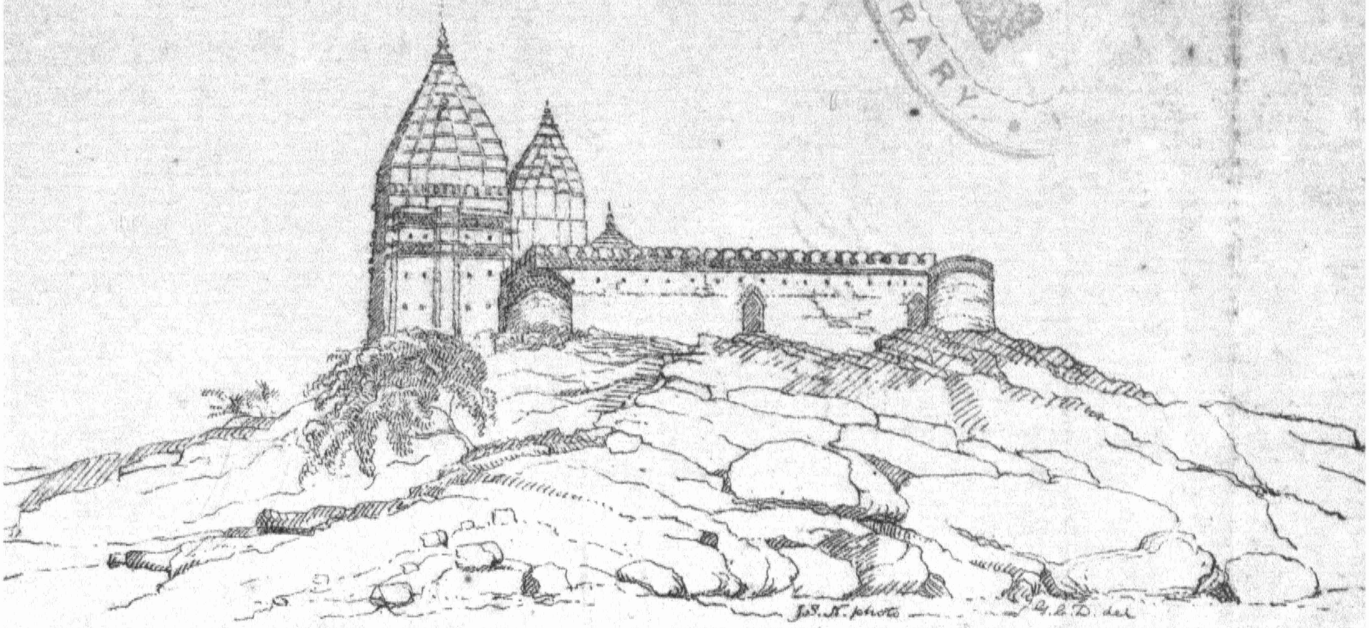
SKETCH IX.



Jagarnath Temple near Ranchee Southern face

SKETCH X.

Sing Darwaza Dorsa (A.D. 1664)

Abstract of the Village Lists of the Chota Nagpore Estate (omitting Toree) arranged by pergunnas, showing the numbers of villages, deserted villages, houses and average numbers of houses in each village, compiled by the No. 4 Topographical Party.

	Names of Pergunnahs.	Number of inhabited villages.	Number of deserted villages.	Number of houses.	Average number of houses in each village.	
1	Ardhi	35	0	520	14·0	
2	Aringi	59	1	1211	20·5	
3	Bano	26	1	288	11·1	
4	Baragain	28	0	486	17·3	
5	Basia	350	8	5848	16·7	
6	Belkadih ...	112	2	2215	19·8	
7	Belsia	80	2	1053	13·2	
8	Bhounrpahar .. .	90	4	977	10·8	
9	Biru	583	29	6100	10·4	
10	Boranda	68	0	2883	42·0	
11	Bundu	101	3	3292	33·0	
12	Burwah	392	23	5621	14·0	
13	Deorkhand	50	1	701	14·0	
14	Doisa	674	12	12425	18·4	
15	Hajam Banta	19	0	1013	55.0	
16	Jonha	36	2	582	16·2	
17	Jushpur	111	5	2519	22·7	
18	Karru	16	1	286	17·8	
19	Kasmar	123	9	1310	10·6	
20	Khukra	1359	30	33108	24·5	
21	Kasir	37	0	164	12·5	
22	Korame	286	10	1511	19·3	
23	Kuranpura	36	2	1293	36·0	
24	Lachra	64	0	844	13·2	
25	Lodma	89	4	1729	19·4	
26	Noagar	98	1	1128	11·5	
27	Odeypur	188	16	4725	25·1	
28	Palkot	137	1	3772	27·5	
29	Panari	88	2	1848	21·0	
30	Rahe	111	5	3510	33·0	
31	Sasia	35	2	688	19·6	
32	Sillee	98	0	2514	26·0	
33	Siree	109	5	1814	16·0	
34	Sonpur	786	27	13890	17·7	
35	Sutiame	69	1	1953	28·3	
36	Talsa	20	0	259	13·0	
37	Tamar	501	8	11836	24·0	
38	Toree					No Return
39	Umendanda	59	2	827	14·0	
40	Uparpat	47	2	753	16·0	
40	Total ...	7170	221	139116	19·4	

POPULATION.

The Coles, Moondas and Oraons.

64. The great majority of the inhabitants bear the generic name of Coles, or "low caste," according to Hindoo notions. They are however divided into two large tribes known amongst themselves as Moondas and Oraons. The former are believed to be the descendants of the aborigines who cleared the soil from jungle, and the latter at a later date coming from the north-west, entered the country and were amicably received by the wild aboriginal race, who acquired from them a knowledge of the use of the plough. The two races have fraternised, though they have never amalgamated: they cannot intermarry, and both retain their own languages. Their dances, songs, marriage and burial ceremonies, and system of village communities are however now alike. Besides these two there are other tribes of a similar aspect, and unfamiliar names. Again, in most villages are to be found foreigners,

And other tribes.

Hindoos and Mussulmans, who are owners of the villages, grain and cloth merchants, cow-keepers, or retainers of the land owners. There is no means of obtaining the

relative proportions of these several races, but the table appended to para. 51 of this Report probably affords an approximation to the several ratios as near the truth, as it is ever likely they will be obtained.

Total population and Data for calculating it.

65. The total population may be calculated with some accuracy on the data given in the accompanying table, which was formed by a Mohurrir of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore's Office, acting under the orders of the Topographical Surveyor.

Abstract of the number of houses, men, women and children, obtained during the field season 1862-63 *by Rampersad Mohurrir, in Chota Nagpore Division and Sumbhulpore Estates.*

Houses	Men	Women	Children		Total	Average Souls per house
			Boys	Girls		
128	249	223	172	167	811	6·34

The table gives an average of 6·34 persons per house calculated from the data afforded by 128 houses taken at random from different villages, and of men of different castes. Perhaps the average may be thought a high one, however this may be, it is here given just as it was obtained. Thus using the total number of houses (given in table attached to para. 63) at 139,116, and 6·31 as the factor of multiplication, the total amounts to 881,995 souls for Chota Nagpore without Toree.

The number of inhabitants per square mile.

66. The area of Chota Nagpore (vide para. 4) being 7120 square miles, and the number of inhabitants (as in the last para.) the average of 124 nearly inhabitants is obtained for each mile.

67. In preparing the following paragraphs the interesting paper by Lieut. Colonel E. T. Dalton, Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, entitled "The Kols of Chota Nagpore," published in No. CXXXVI of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, has been freely borrowed from.

The Moondas.

68. The Moonda race is a branch of the Sonthal, the Bhoomij and the Ho or Larca of Singbhoom, and to it are allied the little known jungle tribes called Koruas, Kherias and Puttoons. It is settled principally in the southern and eastern parts of Chota Nagpore. "Many" of the Moondas "have features of sufficiently good cast to entitle them to rank as Arians; high noses, large well-formed mouths, beautiful teeth, and the facial angle as good as the Hindoo races." Yet, although their features may sometimes approach the classical type, there probably could not be found a handsome man or a beautiful woman amongst the whole race, and their skins are of the darkest.

The Oraons.

69. The Oraons on the other hand have wide mouths, thick lips, wide nostrils, rather woolly hair and dark skins; they are of very short stature, but they are well proportioned and active, and are of the same family as the hill tribes of the Rajmehal hills. They inhabit the western parts of Chota Nagpore, and tradition has it that they sprang from Goozerat and in time occupied the Rhotas hills before their final emigration to the land of the Moondas.

Colarian Languages.

70. The language of the Moondas is soft and sonorous, and is analagous to that of the Sonthals and other tribes mentioned above; while that of the Oraons is harsh and guttural, and is allied to the Tamil, and through it to the Gond; it contains a sprinkling of Sanskrit words. The Rev. F. Batsch has compiled a short grammar of the Oraon language, and Colonel Tichell has written critically on that of the Hos, who are important members of the Moonda family. Neither of them are written languages, hence the Lutheran Missionaries employ Hindee in their teaching; and Hindee is the language of the government Courts: Urdu is commonly employed also.

The Coles, their customs.

71. The Coles are cultivators of the soil only, raising just so much food as suffices to procure them the common necessaries of life, salt and clothing and for their own consumption. Any surplus they sell to the travelling grain dealers, or convey it to the nearest weekly market which may be many miles from their village. They show rather an aptitude for petty trade in the open air, but no Cole ever kept a shop, nor practised any trade of handicraft other than the roughest Carpenter's or Smith's work.

Their habits.

72. The Cole appears to have no idea of bettering himself, of building a good house, of wearing good clothes, or eating good food. Those few men, who have become well to do in consequence of their having obtained service under Europeans and acquired the habit of wearing clothes of Hindoo fashion, resume the customs of their forefathers when they get leave to visit their villages, and don the *langoti* and waist string. Their wives seem to be indulged with no jewels or gay clothes; and their children are sent out to tend the grazing cattle just as they did themselves in their early days before they came in contact with civilisation. There is no such individual as a Cole gentleman, the nearest approach to such a condition is to be found amongst a few Moonda-zemindars and Mankis, who live on the east of the district, and who are gradually putting on the habits and religion of Hindoos. In one point only does the race show considerable enterprise, it is in its readiness to emigrate. Yet, strange it is, that these emigrants on their return from foreign parts, either bury their savings in the earth or squander them in entertaining their friends and then relapse into their normal state of apathy.

Progressive improvement.

73. Under these unfavourable conditions it seems impossible to predict when Chota Nagpore will begin to improve, as other countries have done in India after coming under the administration of the British Government. It is certain that no improvement except that of greater security to life and property has taken place. Whether Christianity, now being sown broad cast over the land, will have the effect of raising the Coles in the social scale, is an open question. Some officers of experience maintain that at present the effect has been to render them more sophisticated and litigious, but not more truthful. Though there are 10,000 converts baptised by the Lutheran Missionaries, and posts of every scale of emolument have been offered for acceptance, no Christian native has ever taken service in this Survey Party. It would appear to be the policy of the Missionaries to confine their converts to the pursuit of husbandry instead of the practice of artisan's work.

Their amusements.

74. On the whole the Coles are a happy race, they are lightly assessed, have no wants, except daily food and light clothing. They are merry also; with flower bedecked hair, troops of damsels may be met as they return from their day's work, who sing together in good time, and who greet the passer-by with a smile, or laugh hearty, but modest, contrasting strongly with the demeanor of their Hindoo sisters, who turn their backs and hide their faces from the mankind whom they meet. A dance and song accompanying it is peculiar to the Cole race, and is always observable even amongst the communities which are found scattered about Sirgooja and other distant estates. The song consists of a few bars in the minor key, which are sung over and over again, the only variety being when unusual energy is put into the rendering of some words partaking of the nature of a chorus. The dancers, who sing and are accompanied by one or more performers on the tom-tom, keep admirable time; the men in one crescent shaped row, the women in another, the middle aged on the right and the small children on the left, the intermediate files being placed in regular gradation of size; each clasping his or her neighbour round neck or waist; all advancing or retiring a step or two in cadence, they gradually circle away to the left or right; and this monotonous measure is kept up for many hours on end unflaggingly.

Food and cookery.

75. The Cole has peculiar notions on the subject of eating. Before he is married he will eat and drink from the hands of Christian, Hindoo, or Mussulman; and he appears decked out with the finery of beads, shining bits of brass, and looking glass about his neck, and flowers in his hair: but on his becoming a benedict he sobers down, wears no ornaments, and though he will eat rats, snakes, the skins and intestines of slaughtered birds or goats, his food must be cooked only by himself, his wife or his nearest relation. The flesh of the pig is his delight. His ordinary daily allowance is, if he can get it, one seer of coarse boiled rice with one or to chittacks of Oorid dal, and some coarse oil and red chillies as condiments.

76. The Cole seems healthy enough in his own village. He is subject to no special disease. Cholera once in eight or ten years appears, but it is not of a virulent type, and it confines itself to the dirty quarters and villages occupied by low caste Hindoos. Inoculation is pretty generally practised, but small-pox is also generally in progress in one part or other of the district. The little children suffer from eye disease doubtless aggravated by dirt, for a Cole's proclivities do not incline towards cleanliness, except a few times during the hot weather, he never washes at all. Skin diseases are not very common. There is a type of rheumatism prevalent, which completely cripples the unfortunate victims of it: in Ranchee bazaar may be seen a collection of pitiable objects with their limbs shrunken, and bent into almost impossibly abnormal positions.

Health and disease.

77. Like other kindred aboriginal tribes, the Cole will cut his neighbour's growing crops in the course of a quarrel about the land, when, a fight taking place, murders are committed. He will in a fit of fury cut down his faithless wife and her paramour, and there are no more fruitful causes of crime than these two:—but he will not deny his guilt, neither generally will he tell a lie, nor thieve. The continence and chastity of the race are great: breaches of fidelity are punished condignly by the villagers themselves, and the disgraced ones are banished from the community. Supposed witches are maltreated and ejected. (See para. 80.)

Crimes.

78. The Cole drinks for the purpose of becoming inebriated. At the festivals which occur at fixed times the whole of the Colarian inhabitants of Chota Nagpore are drunk as one man. The intoxicating liquor called "Hundea" is a beer made of boiled rice, to which is added a preparation of jungle roots, the exact nature of which it is difficult to discover. In the beer the fermented grains of rice are allowed to remain, so that a man can live on drink alone if he takes enough of it. The women indulge equally with the men.

Drinks and drinking.

79. There are three religious festivals or "poojas" in each year: that called Surhool pooja takes place in Cheyt; Kudleta in Sawan; and Khura in Aghan. In all these the Pahn supplies rice and "Hundea" from the produce of the "dalikhetari" (see para. 40) and the ryots supply fowls by a general contribution. There is another triennial "pooja" called Dhura or Desmali, and it is on a large scale: then are consumed buffaloes, goats, sheep, fowls, rice, and liquor. Every person, aboriginal or foreigner, believes that these "poojas" are essentially necessary to prosperity, and that unless they are performed the crops will fail, and the village will be deserted that neglects them. During these festivals an unceasing round of dancing, music, eating and drinking is kept up.

Religious festivals.

80. The following is an extract from the annual Report of the Missionaries of Ranchee for 1864:—"The Coles have no system of religion, they worship a number of demons or evil spirits called Bhoots, said to reside in the rocks, trees and rivers. These demons are believed to be hostile to mankind. Diseases and other misfortunes are ascribed to their agency, and it is the constant aim of these ignorant devil-worshippers to appease their wrath by wild ceremonies and offerings. They also believe in witchcraft; any poor creature who may be suspected to be possessed is regarded as a witch and the great enemy of the people. There are sorcerers in most villages, whose duty it is to discover those who are under the evil influence of the demons. If the sorcerer declares any old woman to be possessed, she is mercilessly beaten and expelled from the village, and if married, her husband is the first to cast her out."

Religion.

Health.

81. There are only native troops quartered in Chota Nagpore: at the present time a Madras Regiment occupies the cantonment of Dorundah, where also is the office of the No. 4 Topographical Survey Party. The healthiness of the climate for Europeans is exemplified by the freedom from sickness enjoyed by this Survey Party since 1861, as compared with the opposite condition, when it was formerly quartered in Cuttack. Nor is this to be wondered at, when it is remembered, that the mean annual morning and midday temperatures are 68° and 81° respectively, temperatures which are so much more favourable than those of India generally. Of the very few cases occurring within the last ten years, all have been traceable to organic disease, and not to climatic causes. There is a peculiar and low type of fever, that fastens on new comers, and that is difficult to cure except by change of air, but it

Healthiness of Survey Party and Troops.

not fatal. Dysentery may be said to be uncommon. No European has ever died of cholera; but in 1862-63 some deaths occurred amongst the Bengal Sepoys quartered in Dorundah, and occasionally a fatal case is reported in the Ranchee bazaar. In the jungly tracts the Surveyors have suffered from the usual malarious fever, but it is not of a rapidly dangerous type, and it yields to the prompt exhibition of well-known remedies. No Surveyor escapes an attack of fever during his first year of service; and fortunately no Surveyor has ever died of it in Chota Nagpore.

Wealth.

Government and Mission Schools.

82. The Government School in Ranchee affords an education including English to the sons of the Court Amlahs, and of the merchants. The Coles, it would seem, do not patronise this school, for on the 1st July 1868, the return of scholars was ninety Hindoos, twenty-one Mussulmans, six Coles (including three brought up from Singbhoom by the Commissioner) and three Christians. Considering the single fact that their language is not a written one, and that instruction must be conveyed to them through some other, to them strange tongue. It is not to be wondered at, that the Coles have evinced little desire for learning. The educationary efforts of the German Missionaries on the other hand are directed entirely to the Coles. A handsome Church, large schools, and commodious boarding house, have been built by these Reverend men, and according to their report for 1867, seventy boys and thirty-four girls were fed, clothed, and taught therein. In addition there are nine village schools in operation where were educated in 1867, one hundred and six Christian native children and fifty-two of other denominations. This class of schools has diminished in number of late years, owing to the apathy or distaste of the people for learning of any kind. The German Lutheran Mission which has now made such vast progress over the land was established in 1845. It laboured for five years without effecting a single conversion. In 1850 the first success was recorded, and by 1857, the year of the mutinies, the numbers of converts had increased to 700. Now in 1868, there are ten thousand baptised Christians who are scattered over the west and south of the district.

Charitable Institutions.

83. In Ranchee there are a traveller's rest-house for natives consisting of a tiled building of kucha bricks, and a charity hospital supported by the contributions of the European inhabitants, the natives subscribing to a small extent also,—aided by the Government, who attach a native doctor and supply medicines. The Civil surgeon gratuitously superintends it. The building, an erection of mud and tiles, is capable of accommodating about fifteen patients. There are no other charitable institutions in Chota Nagpore.

State of litigation and crime.

84. This subject is so foreign to the province of a Surveyor that it is not touched upon here. The systematic returns of the judicial authorities must be consulted by an inquirer.

Police, number &c.

85. The new Police consisted of 563 members in 1867-68, made up of a District Superintendent stationed at Ranchee, with an European Drill Instructor, and an Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Palamow sub-division, the remainder of the force was made up of natives. The cost of this establishment and contingent charges amounted to Rs. 86,612 or rather more than one-half the revenue of the district. There would appear to be no necessity for entering into further particulars of this force, which is established, and well-known, througout Bengal.

Commerce.

Manufactures

86. Of manufactures there are none peculiar to the country. There is a lac-factory at Dorundah belonging to an European firm which turns out shell and dye of first class quality. The coarse cotton cloth worn by the people is woven by themselves or by Hindoos of the weaver caste, one or more of whom is settled in every village. Manchester goods are imported by a few merchants who sell them to the Rajas and well-to-do people in the district. The imports are salt and cloth from Calcutta, and coarse sugar and tobacco from Gya and Shergotee. The exports consist of Sirgooja and other oil seeds, of hides and jungle produce, such as stick-lac and tusser silk cocoons in small quantities.

87. The measures employed are of capacity only. When weighments are made, the instruments used are the common wooden-wicker scales with a round stone as the weight, and the hand steelyard of the same materials. The measures in common use by the Coles are called "pailas", and they vary in capacity, some hold six and others ten chittacks. The Cole sells his grain in the open market at one pice the paila, if the supply is plentiful a large sized paila is used; but under the contrary condition of a brisk demand the large paila is hidden and a smaller one produced, the price remaining the same; a purchaser therefore never knows how much he has got for his money until he has reweighed his grain by his own established standard. The vague character of the land measures has already been described in para. 45.

Weights and measures.

88. The normal rate of interest paid on large loans is 24 to 48 per cent. per annum without security, or two to four rupees per mensem. And under exceptionable circumstances as much as 300 per cent per annum is paid as shown by the agreements signed in the Registry Office, but this is when a man is hard pressed and must have money, or when he expects to repay the loan in a short period of days or weeks. It is a common proceeding for the lender to take a bond of Rs. 125 or 150 for each hundred, to be repaid by a certain date, and in default, interest at Rs. 2 per mensem on the larger sum named in the bond is charged. If the borrowing refers to grain required at sowing time 100 or 150 per cent. is paid in kind for the accommodation at harvest. The land owners of Chota Nagpore are most improvident in the matter of borrowing, a few hundreds or thousands are obtained, either to carry on a law-suit or to purchase cloth at the Dussera festival—at the penal rates of interest named above, and thus once in the hands of the money-lenders they never again get free. At the present time the greater number of the zemindars are steeped in debt, they have sold their rights to many of their villages in satisfaction of their debts, and yet still owe more than they originally borrowed. Except only a few cloth merchants and money-lenders, there probably is not a moderately rich man from the Raja downwards to be found in Chota Nagpore.

Lending and borrowing.

89. Travellers are limited to the use of palanquins. The trade of the country is carried on by means of pack bullocks; a few of the Ranchee merchants only working a few carts on the road to the railway station of Raneegunge. About their villages the Coles carry everything in "bhangees," and occasionally they use the small carts with low solid wheels called "suggers."

Modes of transit.

90. There is no metalled line of road in Chota Nagpore; such roads as there are, are all of the class styled "fair weather," that is during the cold weather their surfaces are smoothed down, and they then become passable for country carts; in some cases bridges have been built over the drainage and rivulets, but all large streams must be forded; in other cases there are no bridges at all. In the rainy season the journey from Ranchee to the nearest railway station is a trying if not a perilous one. The traveller has two routes to select from; the one by Purulia and the other by Hazaribagh. By both he is liable to detention for indefinite periods by swollen streams, and there are no public bungalows in any of the Civil stations of the division or by the way side, except only those on the Grand Trunk Road, and a small one without servants on the left bank of the Subanrekha at Tundil in Manbhoom. The ferry boat on this river has been described in para. 55. Besides these two roads, there is another connecting Ranchee with Chaibassa, and it crosses a formidable ghat; a fourth leads to Sumbhulpore; and a fifth to Palamow; the two latter also radiate from Ranchee. The country is a difficult one for road making; owing to its undulating and hilly character, the bridges required must be very numerous. At no times of the year is there a free communication between the villages, for the strips or finger of cultivation with their steep and often high banks or divisions, are formidable obstacles to wheeled carriages crossing them. In the rainy season the "dhoin" or wet cultivation is a succession of impassable mud flats combined with mud walls of one to six feet in height; and in the dry season troops and artillery could cross them only with the greatest difficulty and in certain localities, where the partitions happen to be low.

Modes of transit.

91. Postal communication with all three Presidencies is carried on by way of Hazaribagh and Burhee on the G. T. Road. Letters reach Ranchee from Calcutta in about forty-eight hours. The line of runners is continued on to Chaibassa and Palamow for which

Postal arrangements.

packets are dispatched daily. The office of the District Inspecting Post Master is fixed at Burhee where also is the nearest telegraph Office to Ranchee.

Taxation and imperial Revenue.

92. The statistics now to be given refer to the year 1867-68, and they are furnished from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner by Mr. C. W. Hawes, Extra Assist. Commissioner and afterwards verified by Captain R. C. Money, Deputy Commissioner. The items where the contrary is not stated, refer to the collections of the whole district including Palamow. Annas and pie have been omitted.

Land Revenue.	1 Paid by the Raja of Chota Nagpore,	Rs. 14,364	
	2 Government Estates Chota Nagpore,	14,107	
	3 Government Estate Palamow,	39,220	
			Rs. 67,691
Stamps			50,558
Excise			37,958
License Tax			22,063
Miscellaneous			1,202
Total Imperial Revenue of Lohardugga and Palamow			Rs. 180,372

Taxation, municipal revenue.

93. In addition, the following Municipal taxes were collected for the improvement of roads, conservancy and payment of Chowkedars.

Ranchee Bazar Dues	Rs. 1,850	
Ranchee Chowkedari Tax	2,356	
Ranchee Chaparbandi Tax	330	
Ranchee Kucheri Land Rent	176	
		Rs. 4,712
Dorunda Chowkedari Tax		466
Lohardagga Chowkedari Tax		986
Total Municipal Revenues		Rs. 6,161

94. The revenue obtained from stamps is collected as usual, payments being made directly into the Lohardugga Treasury. Of the land revenue that portion paid by the Raja is collected by his own servants and paid into the treasury, with the exception of the quotas obtained from those villages he has assigned as security for his own punctual payment. In these villages as well as in all the Government estates, collections are effected through Tesildars who are appointed by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga. (See Note).

Total population and rate of taxation paid per head of population, &c.

95. To obtain the average incidence of taxation per head of the population, some simple calculations and assumptions are requisite, for the reason that while the revenue shown above is that of the whole district, the population of only a portion of the district is known, or that of Chota Nagpore proper exclusive of Toree pergunna. It will be necessary to assume that the population per square mile calculated in para. 66 is equally applicable to Palamow as to Chota Nagpore. The fact probably is that the factor is too high and that the former is not so thickly peopled as the latter, but what the difference may be cannot now be conjectured even. However this may be, the district of Chota Nagpore covers 11,404 square miles and at 123·9 persons per square mile, the number of 1,412,956 is obtained as an approximation to the true number of the population. At any rate this calculation cannot give a result too high.

Population.

(Note to para. 94) The assignment of the villages here named was an arrangement for the convenience of the Raja initiated in 1861: it ceased to obtain in 1865, and the Raja now collects his rents through his own servants, his only obligation being to pay into the Government treasury his kist or tribute by certain fixed dates. On the payments falling into arrear the Deputy Commissioner issues an order to attach and sell any moveable property such as elephants, &c. This step is generally effectual and sales seldom take place. The Raja of Chota Nagpore being a tributary zemindar of the British Government his estate is not liable to sale on failure of payments. If the arrears of revenue are heavy and there is no prospect of their adjustment, the order is issued for the attachment of the estate, which is then held until the arrears have been realized by collections made from the tenants direct, of the rents they would otherwise have paid to the Raja. On the debt being liquidated the Raja again receives possession of his estate.

96. Again taking the population and taxation, as determined in the last and 92 para. respectively, we obtain the information that each person paid on an average 0.127 rupees, or less than three pence farthing for the protection he received from the British Government.

Average taxation per head.

97. Further the area of the district being 11,404 square miles, and the land revenue Rs. 67,691, it may be determined with accuracy that the imperial land revenue amounted to about twelve shillings and two pence for each square mile.

Land Revenue average paid per mile.

98. "The uniform tradition states that the Moondas originally cleared the country and brought it into cultivation. There was at first no Raja of the whole country, which was divided into purhas or patches of from 15 to 20 villages each under a Raja. It is impossible to say what the Rajas received from their subjects; most probably only assistance in war and salamee at festivals. Finding that this system of managing the country by means of so many Rajas did not answer, the Moondas elected the ancestor of the present Palkote family to the raj of the whole country, since which sixty two Rajas of that family are stated to have sat on the *gudly* with a few adoptions in the same family. The Raja's family and friends pretend they were Rajpoots at the time of the election, but there can be no doubt that their ancestor was a Moonda, and the family prospering, they managed by force to get married into the Rajpoot families of Pachte and Singbhoom and eventually into others, and now pass for as good Rajpoots as any in India."

Early History.

99. The Oraons doubtless came in at a much later date, as described briefly in para. 69, and occupied lands under the Rajas of Chota Nagpore, who welcomed them as a more civilized (?) race than their own wild Moondas.

Early history continued.

100. At first the sway of the Rajas extended over the plateau only or second level of 2100 feet; (described in para. 10), but later the Moondas descended the ghats and occupied the low country, forming colonies in what are now called the "Panch Pergunnas" or Silli, Baranda, Rahe, Bundu, and Tamar, and elected to themselves each their own Rajas, who became independent, and put on Hindooism, becoming Chutrees. The families of three of these petty Rajas retain their titles to the present day: but according to tradition they forfeited their independence on paying tribute to the Raja of Cuttack, whereupon the Maharaja of Chota Nagpore attacked and conquered them, and annexed their estates to his own.

Early history continued.

101. No Government seems ever to have interfered with the management of Nagpore until our own times. The paramount power was always satisfied with getting a moderate rent for the country, and when not paid a force was sent to collect it; but no attempt was made to interfere with the police or internal arrangement, which was left to the Raja.

Recent History.

102. On the original establishment of zillah Ramgurh, Nagpore was made subject to its court, but every thing was left subject to the discretion of the Raja. In 1809 however the Raja and his brothers having quarrelled, a military force was sent, thannahs were established, and the police placed under the Magistrate of Ramgurh; but there was no regular police administration until 1834 when the South-West Frontier Agency was established; this has been gradually expanded from three or four officers to the present complete Executive and Judicial body, whose head official has of late years been styled Commissioner of Chota Nagpore instead of Governor General's Agent.

Recent history.

103. Since 1809 up to the present time, peace and quietness has reigned except only in 1857 when the Ramghur Battalion mutinied, set up a puppet Raja, burnt all the houses of the Europeans and caused the Civil officers to fly for their lives. In consequence the stations of Ranchee, Hazaribaugh, Purulia and Chaibssa were given up for about three months, and the authority of the British Government in Chota Nagpore fell into abeyance. Eventually the mutineers proceeded to join their comrades of the Bengal army, they were over-

Recent History.

taken by a detachment of British troops (Europeans) at Chatra in Hazaribagh and were defeated with heavy loss. This successful affair, when a Bengal army officer won the Victoria cross, enabled the Civil officers to re-occupy their stations, and law and order was again firmly established.

Confusion in the names of District, &c.

104. The name applied to the Division is "Chota Nagpore", after the Raja's estate forming a portion of it, and in the midst of which are located the headquarters and civil offices at Ranchee. The word "Chota" is a corruption from Chutia, the name of a village of note lying one mile east of Ranchee; thus the country is known as Chutia Nagpore amongst the natives. The district under the "Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga" corresponds to the estate of the Raja of Chota Nagpore (to which has been added Palamow) the courts and treasury, all being located at Ranchee. Lohardugga is the name of the small town where the first British officer was stationed in 1834, it is 45 miles west of Ranchee. Again the Ranchee Post Office is styled the "Chota Nagpore Post office". Thus we have three distinct names in common use for the Government offices, the treasury being styled of "Ranchee," "Lohardugga" and "Chota Nagpore". These names form an unsolvable puzzle to people at a distance; and to add to the confusion, Dorundah is the Military Cantonment adjacent to Ranchee. The name "Lohardugga" might be given up as inapplicable, and "Chota Nagpore" or "Ranchee" substituted and applied to the district offices in general.

Antiquities

105. At Doisa are the remains of a former residence or "gurh" of the Raja of Chota Nagpore; it has been described in para. 62. In the absence of more remarkable buildings Doisa may be considered note-worthy. There are single temples, of the Hindoo era only, to be found in several parts of the country, but they are of no particulr interest. At Juggernathpur three miles S. W. of Ranchee is the largest temple in the district, it is built on a rock commanding a fine and extensive view of the plateau around Ranchee, and it is after the model of the great Juggernauth at Pooree.

Public buildings

106. Besides the public offices of the Commissioner, Judicial, Deputy, and Assistant Commissioners, which are all located in one large masonry building, there is a brick built record house, and a bungalow used as a school. The Jail is a collection of mud huts, not entirely encompassed by a wall, situated in immediate contiguity to the Ranchee bazar: and there is not such a thing as a travellers' bungalow in the whole of the district. The charity hospital has been referred to in para 83.

G. C. DEPREE, *Captain*, B. S. C.,
Ex-officio Asst. Commr. Cuttack & Chota Nagpore,
In charge No. 4, Topographical Party.

REPORT

GEOGRAPHICAL & STATISTICAL,

ON THE

CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION,

THE SINGBHOOM DISTRICT

WHICH HAS COME UNDER THE OPERATIONS OF THE

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,

BY

G. C. DEPREE, CAPTAIN. B. S. C.

In charge No 1, Topographical Party

JULY 1868

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CALCUTTA

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TO THE

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GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT on that portion of the CHOTA NAGPORE DIVISION which has come under the operations of the Topographical Survey Department, by CAPTAIN G. C. DEPREE, *in charge No. 4 Topographical Party, and Ex-officio, Assistant Commissioner, Cuttack and Chota Nagpore.—(Continued from the Report on Chota Nagpore.) Dated Office No. 4, Topographical Party, Chota Nagpore Division Survey. Dorundah 1st October* 1868.

Singbhoom.

107. The district of Singhbhoom forms the south-eastern portion of the Chota Nagpore Division of Bengal. It is one of the four districts governed directly by the officers of the British Government, and of the four it is the one of least importance in size and as to revenue; it is the least cultivated, and the most thinly inhabited, yet the rate at which the jungle lands are now being cleared, the general advance of the people in civilisation and prosperity during the last few years, and the probability of a direct line of railway between Calcutta and Nagpore being carried through it, lead to the conclusion that it will become a country possessing both interest and importance. It covers 4503 square miles as calculated by the Survey. Roughly speaking it has one-third the area of Chota Nagpore; one-half that of Hazaribagh; and five-sixths that of Manbhoom. Its shape resembles that of an irregularly grown kidney potatoe with its concavity turned towards the south-west.

Its limits.

108. The district of Singbhoom extends between 22°-0′ and 22°-53′ north latitude, and its extreme eastern and western points are 86°-58′ and 85°-2′ longitude respectively. It measures 124 miles in extreme length from east to west, and 64 miles in its greatest breadth from north to south.

Pergunnah and their areas.

109. It is divided into the following pergunnahs or estates, the areas of which are—

1	Colehan ...	Sq. Miles	1905	The Civil Station of Chaibassa is the Capital.
2	Porahat ...	...	791	
3	Khursawan ...	...	149	The Thakoor resides at Khursawan
4	Dhalbhoom ...	...	1201	The Raja resides at Ghatsila
5	Seraikela ...	...	457	The Raja resides at Seraikela
Total Area		Sq. Miles	4503	

Boundaries.

110 The boundaries of the district are for the most part natural features; they may be described generally by detailing the marks found on one section, for all are more or less the same. Commencing then on the north, the triple junction between Chota Nagpore, Manbhoom, and Singbhoom, is on a hill named Girgira 2,600 feet high, lying about seven miles north of the well known village of Khursawan; the boundary thence runs eastwards for twelve miles along a range of hills, and strikes the Subanrekha River, which it follows for the next fifteen miles as far as the junction of the Dimna nullah; this stream is the line for four miles; then a range of hills is met with, and is conformed to for fifteen more miles. Thence a nullah is again taken up, and a couple of miles of plain jungle land is crossed in a straight cut to another range, on the highest part of which called Lakesini is the triple junction point between this district Manbhoom, and Midnapore, which latter Zillah lies on the east flank of Singbhoom, and Moherbunge, a tributary estate of Cuttack, adjoins it on the south-east. It will now suffice to describe in a general way the other boundaries and their respective trijunction marks. The triple junction between Midnapore and Moherbunge is on the Subanrekha river at a spot six miles east of Sirsa. Westwards for a distance of 130 miles Moherbunge abuts on Singbhoom with a much contorted boundary, thence Keonjur another estate of Cuttack succeeds. The triple junction between Moherbunge, Keonjur and Singbhoom, is the meeting of the Kongera with the Byturnee river. Westwards again for 36 miles over hills and through jungle Keonjur adjoins, and that estate is succeeded by Bonai, a tributary estate of Chota Nagpore. The triple junction of these two last and Singbhoom, is on the top of a lofty range of hills at the crossing of the Boladpara Pass. From this point westwards the Bonai boundary runs for 32 miles and is succeeded

by that of Gangpur which coincides for 45 miles. The triple junction point between these two and Singbhoom in the extreme S. W. corner of the district, is on a peak named Gamburu elevated 1,900 feet above the sea. The boundary with Gangpur runs north for 32 miles as far as a hill without any name near Dodrubari in Somij-peer. Here Chota Nagpore estate succeeds, and continues northwards, and east of this for a distance of 78 miles, principally conforming to hill features until the starting point on Girgira hill is closed upon, and the circuit of the district completed.

Geology.

111. This district like its neighbour Chota Nagpore is of igneous origin. The rocks on the north-west being part of the plateau of Chota Nagpore, and of its extensive system of spurs, are gneiss; these attain a height of 2,900 feet, and their general direction is east and west. On the east and south of the Subanrekha River, a conspicuous ridge of hills rises abruptly from the plain, the western peak of which is 1,398 feet above sea, and runs in a south-easternly direction, culminating in the hill Tuiligar which is 2,492 feet high, and gradually widening out forms the northern limit of the extensive mass of lofty hills, called the Meghasini range lying in the Moherbunge estate. The highest point in this range attains 3,821 feet. These hills are all of a schistose character running into gneiss. On the northern face of this ridge are copper bearing beds which will be found to be noticed in para. 112 of this report. On the west of the district is a vast series of hills which, without any general name, rise up to the height of 3500 feet, and entirely cover the area comprised in Saranda and other inaccessible Peers. These hills extend southwards into Cuttack, and eventually on to Cape Comorin, running parallel to the eastern coast: they extend again northwards into Porahat, and at first sight would seem to join on with, and be a continuation of, the great Vyndhia range, which stretches across India from the west up to and beyond this longitude: however the survey maps show that this impression is not correct; where the junction of the two ranges would be, there is a passage or break, which being the watershed between the Koel on the west and the Subanrekha on the east, is well adapted for the passage of the railway which it is said will one day be constructed to connect Calcutta with Nagpore, in the direct line between which cities the gap in question conveniently falls. The ground in no place exceeds 850 feet, and probably it is less. And with the exception of this passage, no other pass lower than 2,000 feet occurs east of Jubbulpore. This subject is further treated in paras 170. 173. The country lying within the ranges of hills described above is undulating and generally clear of forest: it varies in height from 400 feet about the Subanrekha to 750 at the Civil station of Chaibassa, on the south of which is an elevated tract of about 1000 feet above the sea covering 700 square miles. This more level part of Singbhoom is reticulated in a remarkable manner with numerous trap-dykes, which, generally a few feet only above the soil, sometimes rise to one and two hundred feet. These dykes consist of fragments of rock of every size and from a few seers to a ton in weight, and of every form, but principally angular. They are aggregated by no earthy binding, and it is easy to look down into the belly of the mass to a depth of some feet. It would seem as if the earth had opened, and a line of molten rock had exuded; this must have on exposure cooled suddenly and then burst into pieces. The rock is of a greenish black colour, and so hard that no steel tool will cut it. On the north of the Subanrekha again is a range of hills culminating at 1700 above the sea, along which the Manbhoom and Midnapore boundaries run as before described. The range has no name. Conspicuous from the station of Chaibassa on the west, is a peaky range of which Ongarbira 2137 feet high is the highest point; it is a spur of the Saranda mass. At twelve miles from Chaibassa on the S. W. is another rather conspicuous hill, Murmurai by name, of an elevation of 1861 feet, the rocks of which are shale; possibly good slate is obtainable, and bright colored earths of purple, red, and yellow, abound.

Minerals.

112. There is the ordinary kunkur, or gooteen (nodular limestone) existing pretty abundantly over the district, but not in sufficient quantities, nor of size to form a road material. There is also the asurhad or stalagmitic deposit found in certain cavities in the hills: it yields abundantly a pure strong lime, but the quantity obtainable is very limited. Slate and coloured earths are found on the S. W. of Chaibassa. As might be

expected from the description of the rocks already given, no coal exists in the district. Soapstone is found in more than one spot, and it is manufactured into platters for local consumption.

113. Iron is procurable nearly universally amongst the hills, it is generally in a nodular form; each nodule is as large as a marble, is of a dull red colour, and shows a glossy surface if subjected to friction. Sometimes the iron ore is in the form of a black earth, and this is rich in metal; and more commonly it is in stratified masses which are dug out and broken into fragments before smelting. The furnaces by the aid of which the metal is reduced are of the ordinary kind about three feet high, built of mud of a hollow cylindrical form: they are charged from the top with alternate layers of ore and charcoal, and after smelting the ore is raked from the bottom by an external orifice: the blast is obtained by two cup-shaped bellows worked alternately with the feet generally of the wife or child of the owner of the furnace. Gold is found in the sands of the rivers in the form of spangles. One beautiful valley enclosed by lofty hills is called Sonapet, or "the mother of gold," and the river issuing from it the Sona river; the sandy deposits of the numerous feeders of this river are washed, and a man working every day may expect to get two pice worth of gold. A prize of two or three annas is a rare occurrence. Copper was obtained in former days at the foot of the range of hills in Dhalbhoom of which Rangamatia is a commanding peak. There is still a trace of the metal to be seen in the schistose rocks, but the people who formerly worked the metal, and the art of smelting it, are alike forgotten. The old workings near Miria and Pathalgora cover a length of many miles: they now lie in the jungle and consist of numerous shafts ten feet or more deep. All the ore seems to have been extracted. Numerous attempts were made to dig below the present depth, but from the German miners having no pumping apparatus, the water always flooded them before the bottom of the old working was discovered. The debris brought up consisted of fragments of ordinary earthen pots, and no metal was ever obtained from these diggings. However at Nadu, a hamlet north of Dhoba hill, systematic mining operations were carried on by an European Company. A shaft and an adit were sunk, but no good ore was struck. The adventure proved a failure, and was abandoned. A more melancholy sight never was than that which met the eye of the Surveyors in 1862. There were a few Europeans isolated from the rest of the world, with difficulties to contend with in the way of food. The adit had fallen in, and there was no timber to repair it. The shaft was flooded with an inexhaustible spring of water, and pumping night and day failed to make any impression on the flow. Thus there was no ore brought to the surface, and if there had been there would have been no wood to smelt it with, the forests around having been already destroyed.

Metals.

114. In the well cultivated parts the scenery is not unlike that of Chota Nagpore, described in the para. 23 of this report, that is there are the rice fields in the low lands, the up lands covered with the same crops of cereals, and pulses, and oil-bearing plants; the mud and thatched huts, but not the same fine mango groves. The villages are often destitute of shade in the commencement of the hot weather, when the Mohua tree sheds its leaves. The hills except in the inaccessible parts have been cleared of forest, and often are cultivated, they therefore look arid and thirsty, and lose their picturesque effect.

General aspect.

115. The soil brought under cultivation is of a red or yellow colour, and is fertile in an ordinary degree, for it bears every kind of crops from the sugarcane downwards. Amongst the hills a black soil of vegetable mould exists, and the same where forest areas have lately been cleared.

Soil.

116. The climate is a dry one owing to Singbhoom being well inland: the distance from Chaibassa to the nearest point of the coast, near Balasore, is 120 miles as the crow flies; and as the country has rather more northing than the head of the Bay of Bengal, a sea breeze could only come from the S. E., and the hills lying in this course do doubtless deprive it of all its vapour. Chaibassa has proved itself healthy to residents; but Nadu was thought to be very unsuitable to the European constitution, for two or

Climate.

more employés of the Copper Company died there of fever and dysentery. As a matter of course, the jungle clad hilly tracts are dangerously feverish, and it is at his imminent risk if an European enters them before November. April is the hottest month; and May, June and July are nearly as trying. The Thermometer often marks 106° in the shade during these months, and hot westerly winds prevail. January is the coolest month being slightly cooler than December; in these two months 50° has been recorded, and hoar-frost may be seen in the low valleys on objects favourable to radiation. The table of Temperature and rain-fall given below is obtained from the Civil Hospital at Chaibassa. The records of Temperature extend from January 1858 to December 1867, and they were treated as follows. The mean of the highest and lowest readings of all the days of a month was taken as the reading for that month, this was done for sun-rise and 4 P. M.; and the mean of the ten values of each month was set down as the general mean of the table for both sun-rise and 4 P. M. It will be observed that the maximum readings were taken at 1 P. M. instead of 2-30. P. M., so that the true maximum would be somewhat higher; but the minimum readings were taken at sun-rise and would be too high, therefore the General Annual Mean Temperature of 79°.60 probably closely approximates to the true value. This temperature is 1.°71 in excess of that determined for Ranchee, which place is 1100 feet higher than Chaibassa, and the variations of the thermometer and the conditions of the two places being similar nearly at the two places, therefore these figures may be used to determine the difference of temperature due to a difference of height, and it will be found that a rise of exactly 300 feet in height causes a fall of one degree of the thermometer throughout the year. The rain fall has not been registered from an earlier date than March 1867, since when the Assistant Commissioner has kept a regular record; an abstract of which in full will be found below, instead of a selection of twelve months, from which to take the average. The average rain-fall probably amounts to 15 inches per annum.

Temperature

Fall of temperature due to elevation

Rain fall

Abstract of Thermometric Readings taken at Chaibassa between the years 1867 *and* 1858. *inclusive, together with Rain fall in certain months of* 1867 *and* 1868.

Months.	Thermometer Mean Readings.		Rain fall	
	6 A. M.	4 P. M.	1867.	1868.
January ...	57·6	72·8		1·14
February ..	62·6	79·2		0·29
March ..	71·7	88·9	1.10	0·15
April ...	79·3	95·5	1·40	0·91
May ..	82·8	91·3	1·60	1·64
June ...	83·9	92·8	5·65	24·68
July ..	80·3	88·6	7·91	8.13
August ..	80 6	88·0	11·31	9·72
September ...	79·1	87·4	6·92	
October ..	71·6	87·4	4·46	
November ..	65·9	81·6	0·39	
December ...	58·8	75·7	0·00	
Annual Mean Temperature	73·1	86.1		

General Annual Mean Temperature 79.°60.

Total Annual Rain fall (by estimation) 45.00.

117. The hills in this district, except those near the thickly inhabited parts, are covered with the primeval forest common to lower Bengal. The timber trees are all well known, they are the sal, gumhar, kusum, paisar, sissoo, kend jamun &c., the most valuable of which is the sal for its hardness, durability and large scantling. The paisar is a handsome wood, but it gives out a yellow stain when wetted, if it be not well varnished. The gumhar works smoothly and is light and strong. The toon and sissoo are the well known materials of the carpenters of Calcutta and Cuttack. There is no teak and no rattans are met with.

Forests.

118. About villages inhabited by Hindoos, mango groves are seen, the fruit is small and the trees receive no care. The mohua tree grows about all the villages, and annually in March its flowering is regarded with great anxiety; the presence of clouds at this time in the air destroys the blossom, for its petals form the food of the poorest class. It has been observed that in years of scarcity, the mohua flowers abundantly and as it were providentially.

Fruit trees.

119. The account given in para. 23 of the Chota Nagpore report may be considered as descriptive of the modes of cultivation of the Hos or Lurkas of Singbhoom; the appearance of the cultivation in the two districts is also the same. The grain is separated from the ear by a string of cattle tied in a row by the neck, and made to revolve round a post fixed in the ground as a centre. The Lurka does muzzle his ox that treadeth out the corn. The grain is husked by the women in a wooden mortar, or better still in a hole in some rock cropping out near their village; the presence of such a rock, convenient also for drying grain and other purposes, is sufficient to cause a village to spring up around it. The common wooden plough, the hoe, and the small dray with solid wheels, and the lever oil press, are the implements in common use.

Modes of cultivations.

120. Rice is the staple, raher and mustard perhaps are the only other grains commonly cultivated, yet most field crops do exist. The Coles grow goondlee, Indian-corn, marua, coarse tobacco, and cotton sufficient for their own consumption, besides in the more civilised parts around Chaibassa, wheat, gram, and peas are grown: besides where formerly one summer crop was reaped now they look to getting an early and a cold weather crop in addition. The Hindoos again are better cultivators and grow sugarcane and vegetables. The country on the south of Dhalbhoom is fertile, and good villages are common, and here indigo is grown and manufactured by an English firm.

Productions.

121. The following table of prices is obtained from information furnished by the Assistant Commissioner of Chaibassa.

Names.		Rate per Rupee in Seers.	
Coarse Rice	...	32	
Fine Rice	...	16	
Oorid	...	22	
Rahar	...	24	
Boot	...	15	
Moong	...	15	
Wheat	...	24	
Goondli	...	30	
Janera, Jowar, &c.	...	0	Not obtainable.
Attah	...	16	
Soojee	...	3	
Mutton	...	4	
Beef	...	8	
Eggs	...	0	at 64 per rupee.
Ghee	...	1½	
Milk	...	16	
Turmeric	...	3	
Onions	...	3	
Chillies	..	2¼	
Salt	...	7	
Tusser Cocoons			2 to 4 Puns per rupee (each pun consists of twenty.)
Buffaloes	..		Rs. 8 to 20 each.
Cattle	...		„ 5 to 10 each.
Goats	...		Ans. 12 to 2 Rs. each.
Fowls	...		at 28 per rupee.
Ducks	...		at 4 per rupee.

122. The cattle as in Chota Nagpore are small and uncared for. The Lurkas feel no reverence for the cow; bulls, bullocks and cows are indifferently yoked and worked in the plough, and at their festivals and sacrifices they slaughter and eat these animals, sacred to the Hindoo. The milk is made no use of, but left to the calves, and the cattle themselves are made over for grazing and keeping to men of the Gwalla caste who are induced to settle in the Cole villages. Pigs abound in all the villages. The Coles take a real interest in these animals and build them styes along side their own dwellings, the animals are however allowed to roam at large during the day. Ducks are reared and sold to all comers by the Hindoos about Seraikela.

Cattle and poultry.

123. A herd of wild elephants has for many years inhabited the Meghasini range, and at certain seasons they enter the hills of Dhalbhoom, but confine themselves to the bamboo and other jungle trees for food, causing no injury to the crops. All the other animals differ in no way from the ordinary fauna of Bengal, unless the scaly ant-eater may be considered uncommon.

Wild animals.

124. So much has been written by officers of Government whose special province it is to have charge of the land revenue, that nothing but a resumé or series of excerpts from their official reports can be expected from a Surveyor in a report of this kind. As the tenures in the four estates forming the district all differ, and are peculiar, they will be described separately, that of the Colehan as the most important being first treated of.

Tenures and occupation.

125. It appears that in 1837 owing to the turbulence of the Lurka Coles, and the professed inability of their nominal chiefs the Rajas of Porahat, Moherbunge, and the Kour of Seraikela to restrain them from systematic rapine and murder, the British Government determined to reduce to submission and to take under its Government the whole of the tribe of Lurka Coles, who inhabited the country called the Colehan, and accordingly the Civil Station of Chaibassa was established and an assistant Governor General's Agent posted thereto. The instructions issued by Major T. Wilkinson, contained in his letter of 15th May 1837, have been the basis of all subsequent settlements, and appear to have been dictated by great wisdom, and to have been admirably adapted to a wild, suspicious race such as the Coles. They provided that a tax of eight annas for each plough should be levied; that a Manki should be placed over every five or fifteen villages, who should be chosen for the influence he was supposed to possess; that when the Manki's charge was a large one, he should be assisted by a Moonda of his own selection; that the number of ploughs should be ascertained from the Mankis; that the village head-men or Moondas should collect the revenue from his village and pay it over to the Manki who should pay his aggregate revenue into the treasury at Chaibassa; that the Manki and Moonda should respectively receive one-eighth and one-sixth of their gross collections as a remuneration for their trouble; that non-resident cultivators should be assessed at eight annas for each five khandees of seed sown (each khandee equal to one maund); that twelve years' possession should be considered a title, and that disputes about land should be settled by Punchayet. The first year's taxation produced Rs. 5,000 which in 1854 had increased to Rs. 8,000.

Of Singhbhoom settlement of 1837.

126. In 1848 Captain Haughton showed that the Coles, at the rate of eight annas for a yoke of oxen, paid only one anna four pie per beegah; he proposed therefore that a new assessment should be made under a rough survey or eye-estimate to be conducted by himself, aided by a jury of Coles. Nothing was done however for the next six years, but before the close of that period it was discovered that the Manki's and Moonda's reports were false, that many ploughs and much new cultivation were concealed and not paid for. Accordingly the Assistant proceeded to measure and assess certain concealed villages, and the ryots assembled expressed satisfaction. But the people always suspicious now began to feel alarm and dreading further interference, put forward their Mankis to offer to pay exactly double what they then paid, provided a twelve years' settlement was granted them. Thus in 1854 the enhanced rate was duly arranged for by Captain J. S. Davies, and the revenue, doubled at a stroke, rose to Rs. 17,701. Pottahs were then issued to the Mankis and Moondas for twelve years, and at the same time a complete record was compil

Of Singhbhoom settlement of 1854.

Settlement of 1854.

of the liabilities of each individual ryot, and the principle that the ryots rented their lands direct from the British Government, and that the Mankis and Moondas were simply collectors of revenue, was fully established and understood. The remuneration of the Mankis and Moondas was altered slightly to one-tenth and one-sixth of the gross proceeds.

Settlement of 1867.

127. In 1867 a new settlement for thirty years was duly effected on conclusion of the last twelve years' settlement. All lands were measured with a rod by Ameens under the superintendence of Dr. W. H. Hayes, the Deputy Commissioner. The immediate result was that the revenue of the Colehan was trebled, and at the same time complete harmony continued between the Coles and the Government, for prior to the adoption of final plans, the Mankis and Moondas of the whole of the country were summoned to meet the Deputy Commissioner in fiscal conclave, and after full discussion they agreed to the proposed terms which are described by Dr. Hayes as follows.—" The rate of rent is fixed at Rs. 2 per hal, containing five local beegahs or khundees. The local khundee is as much land as is usually sown by a maund or 80 lb of seed. According to the measurement adopted, the hal now contains 12,500 square yards or 7 beegahs 15 cottahs and 4 Chuttacks Bengal measurement. It is therefore a trifle more than 4 annas a beegah or 12 annas an acre, and one rate has, with the choice of the people, been fixed for all qualities of land, each cultivator holding his proper proportion of good and bad lands, which is the essential peculiarity of the halbundee or the settlement that prevails in these jungle districts. The qualities of land in the country are known as Bera, first quality, Bad, second, and Gora, third quality. The pasture and garden lands are not assessed." Each man, it is provided, is entitled to a share in the produce of the village trees. The gross rent now amounted to Rs. 64,828, from which had to be deducted Rs. 18,581, the commission paid to the Mankis and Moondas.

Of Dhalbhoom revenue.

128. The estate of Dhalbhoom was formerly a zemindary of the Midnapore zillah, and is assessed at a fixed rent of Rs. 4,266 per annum. It was transferred to Manbhoom in 1833, and eventually in 1846, it was placed under the assistant Commissioner of Singhbhoom. Nearly all the villages are in the hands of the Pudhans, who are of the same class as the people. These men hold their villages either at fixed rents under leases granted by the ancestors of the present Rajah, or under pottas for limited periods now long expired, but the rents are not now liable to enhancement except under a Civil suit. or under less clear terms, and some without any potta at all. The rents are sometimes as low as one per cent. of the proceeds, notwithstanding both Pudhans and ryots are generally very poor, and they often desert their villages and form others. The Rajah should collect from, and adjust his rents with, his people, but owing to the failure to pay his small revenue due to the Government the estate has been attached since 1844, and its rents have been collected by a Tehsildar who estimates the average rents paid at four annas a beegah. The rent however is actually paid at the rent of Rs. 4-8 per plough, and there is no kind of measurement whatever. Before the attachment Rs. 9 were paid for each plough, but by order of the Commissioner this sum was reduced one-half notwithstanding the urgent solicitations of the Rajah who declared that he would be ruined. The Sonthal cultivators pay Rs. 9 per plough actually, this amount being made up of a money payment of five rupees, and two aras of unhusked rice per plough. The ara is six maunds, sixteen seers.

Of Porahat revenue.

129. This estate formerly paid a tribute of Rs. 101 to the British Government. The Rajah entered into this engagement in 1820, and it continued to be observed until 1858, when the state was escheated to the British Government in consequence of the rebellion of the Rajah. At that time it consisted of seven pergunnahs and four Cole peers. Of the former, Porahat and Chuckerdharpur were held directly by the ex-Rajah; and Kera and Anandpur or Somijpeer, as maintenance grants by members of Rajah's family, who since 1840 have paid one-fifth of the gross proceeds to the ex-Rajah. Koraikela and Chainpur were in possession of Bhoonyars, whose ancestors cleared the soil originally and paid one-third to the Rajah as rent. And lastly the Cole peers were held on the same tenures as the peers of Singbhoom. All the lands under cultivation were divided into three classes as shown to be the case in Singhbhoom (para. 127), and each ryot was bound to receive his fair proportion of each kind as might be adjudged to him by the village head-men, and rent was levied on the three kinds as

a whole at the rate of Rs. 26 per hal of fifty khundees. (See para. 127 for value of khundee). On the estate coming under the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom in 1858-59, a settlement was made and extended to 1859-60 at the rate which prevailed under the ex-Rajah; it was moreover fixed for a period of twenty years. The exact area of the Khundee was ascertained and eventually it was slightly altered, and 2500 square yards were adopted as the measure of the standard Khundee. The cultivated lands were all then measured and pottas were granted for 20 years to the Perdhans or head-men for the total area of their village lands—an arrangement opposed to the system adopted in Singbhoom, where each ryot pays his rent direct to Government. It was found that, by reducing this measure to standard beegahs of 1600 yards, the rate of Rs. 26 per hal gave a rate of five annas and half a pie per beegah. At this time the pergunnah of Koraikela was granted to the Rajah of Seraikela rent-free for ever on condition of giving service, in reward for his loyalty to the Government. Kera in like manner was granted to the Thakoor, its zemindar, and the other peers were settled on the original terms for 20 years.

Of Khursawan.

130. Khursawan, a small estate in the hands of the Thakoor, a descendant of the house of Porahat, is held rent-free. The rate paid by the ryots is said to be Rs. 40 for fifty beegahs of land.

Of Seraikela.

131. Seraikela is held by the Rajah on a rent-free tenure, and his ryots pay him one rupee for each beegah.

Labour employed and its remuneration in 1868.

132. The Lurkas consider it derogatory to their dignity to carry loads, and they look down on labour for hire generally. They are not accustomed to carry loads on their shoulders by means of bangly sticks nor on their heads, but they cut a pole from the nearest jungle, suspend the load in the middle, and of two men each takes one end. In the station of Chaibassa men receive five pice and women four pice for a day's labour, or the former receive three rupees by the month. In the case of field labourers engaged in the rice cultivation, they are paid in kind at slightly different rates. In the Colehan they receive one pye (or two seers) paddy and one handful of grain in the ear a day. In Seraikela 2½ seers of paddy and one handful of grain. In Dhalbhoom men engaged by the year get four seers of paddy and two seers of marua or other cheap coarse grain per diem, and a bonus of one and a half rupees at the end of the year; women obtain half this rate.

Emigration.

133. This district is a recruiting ground for the labourers employed in Assam, Sylhet and Cachar. The table given below shows the numbers of emigrants and their castes registered and despatched between 1st January and 30th September 1868. The total 695, if increased by one quarter on the supposition that the recruiting will proceed at the same rate during the remaining three months of the year, will amount to 869 souls per annum, or one emigrant to every 4,800 of the whole population of the district:—

Abstract of names of Castes and corresponding numbers of Emigrants from Singbhoom to Assam, &c. from January to September 1868, *obtained from the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Singbhoom.*

Names of Castes.	Numbers.	Names of Castes.	Numbers.
Ahir ...	6	Koormi ...	5
Bagti ...	2	Koronga ...	4
Bhooiya ...	3	Lohra ...	7
Bhoomij ...	139	Mahanti ...	1
Coles (Lurka) ...	101	Moochee ...	22
Dharoora ...	1	Moondari ...	7
Ghasi ...	2	Napit ...	2
Gwalla ...	52	Sonthal ...	23
Kamar ...	8	Tamaria* ...	238
Koomhar ...	1	Tanti ...	71

Total number of Emigrants for nine months 695 (for 12 months 869 estimated.)

* Tamarias are Moonda Coles who have come from Tamar in Chota Nagpore.

WATER.

134. The main drainage lines of Singbhoom are the Subanrikha on the north and east, the Koel on the west, and the Byturnee on the south.

Rivers

135. The Subanrikha has a course of 210 miles from its rise in Chota Nagpore to its entry into the sea twenty-five miles on the east of Balasore. The height of its source is 2,100 feet, and the average fall per mile is therefore exactly ten feet. The fall is however by no means uniform from source to sea, for the river descends 320 feet in a single leap at the Hundru Ghag waterfall (vide para. 16 of the Chota Nagpore report), besides the course of the river is generally rocky and rapid until the level country of Midnapore is reached. For 80 miles the Subanrikha traverses Singbhoom, but it could not be made available for traffic, for the water in the hot season is scanty, and rocky barriers are common. The great decrease in level in the river bed occurs in its upper course; by the time it has flowed 56 miles, it has fallen to 740 feet as shown by Kusi V. S, a village station opposite to Hajam Banta, the height of which has been determined trigonometrically by the Topographical Survey, the average fall thus obtained is 30 feet a mile. In the next section of 48 miles at Sapra village there is another Trigonometrical station which shows that the river bed near the junction of the Khorkai with the main-stream is 450 feet above the sea, it having fallen 290 feet or equivalent to 6 feet per mile. The last section of 136 miles to the sea slopes away at the rate of rather less than 3½ feet per mile. The two great affluents of the Subanrikha are the Khorkai and Sanjai which mingle their waters in Seraikela and then join the main stream near Sapra. The former has a course of 90 miles, of which 46 miles only run through Singbhoom. The river rises in the lofty Meghasini hills of Moherbunge, and assuming the height of its source at 1000 feet, its bed has a fall of 6 feet a mile. The principal feeders of the Khorkai are the Roro, Terlo and Kano. The Sanjai has a course of 60 miles, rising in the Porahat hills on the west. Its feeders are the Sona, Sonkua, Binjai. The Gurrha is a third affluent of the Subanrikha and has a course of 32 miles. It is unremarkable.

The Subanrikha.

Its affluents.

136. The Koel has already been described as rising in Chota Nagpore. After a course of 175 miles, it joins its waters to those of the Sunk river, and the united stream, under the name of the Bramini, flows into the sea at Point Palmyras. The height of the river bed at the point of confluence is 600 feet nearly, showing a mean slope of 10 feet per mile; but as in the case of the Subanrikha there is a sudden fall of 120 feet occurring in three cascades, as the river leaves the plateau of Chota Nagpore near Belsiangurh, and about this part the stream is very rapid. At Sode village below the falls is a Trigl. station 952 feet above the sea, and again there is another on the S. W. of the village of Joraikola, where the river quits Singbhoom and enters Ganpur; this is 703 feet in elevation. The Koel flows through Singbhoom only for 38 miles of its course, the average height of its bed being 800 feet in this part. The affluents of the Koel are the Karo, which rises in Chota Nagpore, and has a course of 34 miles, twelve of which only are through Singbhoom; another Karo which rises in Bonai, runs through the N. W. corner of Koenjur, flows north and falls into the main stream near Annundpur after a course of 62 miles, only 37 of which traverse Singbhoom; the Koina rises in and flows through Sarandapeer with a course of 36 miles.

Its affluents.

137. The Byturnee or Boeturni requires to be briefly noticed, for it forms the boundary line with Koenjur for 8 miles only, the height of the valley at this place being about 1000 feet—and the remainder of the stream drains the Cuttack division. Its one or two tributaries rising in Singbhoom are of insignificant extent.

The Byturnee.

138. From the description given above, it will appear that none of the rivers are likely to be made practicable for navigation, though they are capable of affording unlimited mill-driving power. In the dry season the rivers are fordable; when there has been rain a canoe at the principal crossings enables pedestrians to cross, and animals swim over; but when they are in flood, the traveller has no option but to halt on their banks until the waters subside.

139. Canals and lakes are non-existent and no artificial irrigation is attempted. In Seraikela and the better cultivated parts of Dhalbhoom, numerous tanks of old date, and embanked reservoirs, are seen: the latter are made on the salient corners of the wet rice cultivation, and serve to keep up a supply of water during the hot months, when the embankments are cut and the water let out into the fields. Wells are uncommon; the inhabitants obtain their drinking water from the tanks or generally from "darees" or natural surface springs to be found in the low lying cultivations.

Canals and wells and irrigation

140. There is no city in the district, and village would be a more appropriate term than town to apply to the largest dwelling centres. Chaibassa, the Civil Station, has 600 houses which are for the most part tiled and built of mud or kutcha brick; besides the public buildings there are a few houses of a rather superior class laid out in a short street, and occupied by dealers in Tussercocoons, cloth, and grain. It is situated on the rising ground overlooking the Roro nullah on the right bank, roads have been constructed, tanks dug and trees planted, and there is a pleasing view of the Ongarbira range of hills four miles off on the west, but the general aspect of the station is rocky and arid. Kharsawan has 300 houses, and Kera 200, and there are eleven villages which have 100, in the whole of the Colehan, Porahat, and Kharsawan; and altogether 1599 of smaller size (vide table para. 143.) In Seraikela, the capital town of the same name contains 550 houses principally of Bengalis and other Hindoos, the retainers of the Rajah of the estate who dwell in a pucka house of no architectural pretensions. There are seven villages which have between 100 and 200 houses, and two hundred and six villages of smaller sizes. The general average number of houses in each village is twenty-two.

Cities, Towns and villages of Singbhoom.

Of Seraikela.

Holdipokur has 200 houses, and it is the largest village in Dhalbhoom; there are ten others of 100 houses and upwards, and twelve hundred and twenty-three of all sizes, the average number of houses per village being eighteen for the estate. The Rajah lives at Ghatsila in a palace of unburnt brick and mud walls, with a tiled roof.

Of Dhalbhoom.

141. The description of the villages and houses of the Chota Nagporeans (vide para. 61.) applies equally to those of Singbhoom, with the exception of the houses of the Southals which are remarkable for their neatness, regularity, and tasteful colouring in patterns obtained by the use of white, and red, clay, and charcoal of burnt straw as the pigments.

Description of villages

142. In the course of the late settlement of the Colehan, the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom obtained a return of the population of the Colehan, independently of the estates of Porahat, Seraikela and Dhalbhoom, which shows the number of men, women and children to be 1,18,281: this number divided by 1,905, the number of square miles of area, affords us the mean rate of 62.1 souls per square mile.

Population of Colehan by Settlement Officer.

143. The population of the other estates is derived from the Survey records by multiplying the total number of houses by the factor 6.3, that having been shown (vide para. 65) to be the average number of human beings in each house.

Population of the other estates by survey records.

The results arrived at are, Seraikela has 80,949 inhabitants, Kharsawan 29,227, Porahat 56,001 and Dhalbhoom 139,381, or a grand total for the district of 123,839 inhabitants.

Table showing the Pergunnahs or Peers, Villages, Houses, Deserted Villages, Average Houses per village, Population, and Inhabitants per square mile, of the five Estates comprising the Singbhoom District.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Estate	Names of Peers or Pergunnahs.	Number of villages.	Number of Houses.	Number of Deserted villages.	Average Number of houses per village.	Population	Inhabitants per Sq. Mile.	Remarks.	
Colehan.	Assontolah ..	3	No return.	No return.	No return.	589	118,281 — 1905 Miles.		1
	Awlah ..	82				7513			2
	Bhurbhuria ..	32				5972			3
	Bu Peer ...	136				14866			4
	Buntuna	30				4180			5
	Burkeyla ...	22				5428			6
	Cheeroo ..	17				2371			7
	Choroye ...	39				7031			8
	Chynepur ...	5				1086			9
	Goolkeda ...	23				3198			10
	Goomla ..	95				20540			11
	Janda .	9				518			12
	Kalmowah ...	17				1117			13
	Kooldiha ...	13				1380			14
	Kotegurh .	29				2941			15
	Lallgurh ...	50				5648			16
	Lota ...	5				1278			17
	Nagra ..	12				1811			18
	Natooa ...	6				65			19
	Rajabasa ...	14				3340			20
	Rengra ...	22				1245			21
	Rela ..	7				86			22
	Sidoo ...	11				1016			23
	Sarundah .	13				736			24
	Thoi ..	91				15234			25
	Ujhodheya ..	31				7267			26
		847				118,281	62 1		
Khursawan	Asantola ...	49	1373			4633 × 6·3	29,227—149 M		1
	Baljori ..	30	832						2
	Khursawan ...	135	2138						3
		214	4633	3	22	29,227	196.1		
Porahat.	Anandpur ...					8,889 × 6.3	56,001—791	Belongs to Seraikela.	1
	Bandgaon ..								2
	Baring ..								3
	Chainpur ..								4
	Chuckerdharpur ...								5
	Girgaon ...								6
	Gudhari ...								7
	Gulkera ..								8
	Jhibraon ...								9
	Kera ...								10
	Koraikela ..	"	"	"	"				11
	Porahat ...								12
		552	8,889		16	56,001	70·8		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Estate.	Names of Peers or Pergunnahs.	Number of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Number of deserted Villages.	Average Number of houses per Village.	Population.	Inhabitants per Sq. mile.	Remarks.	
Seraikela.	Banksai ...	27	457			12,849 × 6·3	80,949 ÷ 457		1
	Damra ...	26	489						2
	Dugni ...	43	1051						3
	Gombaria ...	43	981						4
	Icha ...	49	1095						5
	Kuchung ...	226	5447						6
	Koraikela ...	41	570						7
	Seraikela ...	95	2759						8
		550	12849	1	23	80,949	177.1		
Dhalbhoom.		1234	22,124	47	18	139,381	139381 ÷ 1201		
		1234	22,124	47	18	139,381	115.8		
Means and Totals ...		3397				423,839	94.1		

144. The table of population of Singbhoom given by the Deputy Commissioner affords a means of testing the accuracy of the Topographical Survey returns, and of the unit 6.3, for there are eleven peers that have their returns complete in both offices. The other peers were surveyed ten years ago, and the village lists were not made out with the completeness adopted in the present day. Moreover the settlement operations are of later date and the boundaries now fixed probably differ from those pointed out by the villagers to the Surveyors, hence descrepancies in the two records may be expected and they are shown in the following table. Moreover in the Survey every hamlet, if it has a name and one house, is recorded in a separate village, whereas in the settlement the offshoot of a village when built by the villagers receives the name of that village, and its houses are included under the one name :—

Test of accuracy of Survey returns of population.

Returns of certain Pergunnahs obtained from the records of the Settlement operations and from the Topographical Survey.

By Settlement Records.			By Topographical Survey Records.			
	Villages	Inhabitants.		Villages.	Houses.	Inhabitants.
Ajodheya	31	7267	Ajhudia	38	1197	7541
Awlah	82	7513	Oula	81	1556	9803
Burkeyla	22	5428	Borkela	27	890	5607
Cheeroo	17	2371	Chiru	17	446	2810
Choroye	39	7031	Chorai	42	1063	6697
Chynepur	5	1086	Chainpur	5	169	1065
Goolikeda	23	3498	Goilkara	23	488	3072
Natooa	6	65	Latua	6	43	271
Rajabassah	14	3340	Rajabasa	15	513	3232
Rela	7	86	Rela	8	46	290
Kalinowa	17	1447	Kalinoa	19	154	970
	263	39,132		281		41,368

Thus the population of the eleven peers is by the settlement 39,132, and by the Survey (obtained by multiplying the number of houses by 6.3) is 41,368. Assuming then that the settlement total is correct, though it is not stated how the census was taken, the survey factor is too high in the ratio of 106 to 100.

Average number of Inhabitants per square mile.

145. An examination of the table after para. 143 shows that the different estates vary greatly as to the density of their populations. Kharsawan and Seraikela are three times as thickly peopled as is the Colehan, or even Porahat. The number of inhabitants per square mile averages 62.1 in the Colehan, 196.1 in Kharsawan, 70.8 in Porahat, 177.1 in Seraikela and 115.8 in Dhalbhoom. The general average for the whole of the district is 94.1 inhabitants for each square mile.

Names & number of castes.

146. The names of the various castes, and their numbers making up the inhabitants of the district, cannot now be ascertained, it was beyond the province of the Survey to enquire into them; they may however be obtained with tolerable accuracy by consulting the table after para. 133, showing the emigrants from the whole district, also by consulting the Statement of different castes as furnished by the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom and quoted below. It must be borne in mind that in the open cultivated tracts Hindoos of all degrees prevail, and that in the jungly and hilly parts wild aboriginal tribes only exist.

Statement of different Castes of persons, inhabitants of the Colehan with their number.

	Castes.	Number.		Castes.	Number.		Castes.	Number.
1	Coles	93,968	9	Bhoomij	4	17	Hajam ..	41
2	Gowallas	12,563	10	Koormee	696	18	Ooriah .	15
3	Tantees	5,445	11	Brahmin	5	19	Mahaly	263
4	Camar	1,066	12	Ghasee .	100	20	Telly	4
5	Coomhar	1,414	13	Mistree	6	21	Mochee	40
6	Bhooiah	1,561	14	Soondee	34	22	Mussalman	25
7	Dhorooa ..	532	15	Sooree ..	4	23	Dhoba	231
8	Bostum ...	108	16	Moodee . .	68	24	Dome .	58

Total 1,18,281, consisting of 30,802 males, 31,169 females, 29,980 boys and 26,330 girls.

Table for calculating the numbers of each sex..

147. Should it be thought desirable to calculate the numbers of each sex in the remainder of Singbhoom, a simple sum will determine them provided the data given in para. 65 and the table appended are made use of.

Employment.

148. The people of Singbhoom occupy themselves solely in agriculture. The commonest grains requiring the least cultivation are grown in sufficient quantities for home consumption, and little for exportation. Thus the people except during the seasons of ploughing, sowing and reaping, sit idly about their villages for the rest of the year. It is the rule to find gray-haired men who have never visited other villages only four miles distant from their own; they have no business to go upon, and do not go for amusement's sake. The Coles (Lurkas) seemed to the Surveyors to be innate sluggards, they were very averse to do any kind of work, although they found they were well and invariably paid. They object to carry palanquins or loads for travellers, and they will not even tend their own cattle, but employ Gowallas for the purpose. They do not work in iron, neither do they spin, but retain blacksmiths and weavers in their villages. They have within late years taken up an employment congenial to their natures, that of breeding and rearing the tusser silk worms. The Coles use the adze with sufficient skill to manufacture their wooden ploughs and to cut timber for hut building.

Language.

149. The Hindoos of Dhalbhoom speak Ooriya, there are Bengali families in Seraikela, and the Hindee language is in use amongst the Hindoos of the western part of the district. The great mass of the people, the Lurkas or Hos, the Bhoomij, Bhooiyas and Sonthals, speak a language analogous to that of the Moondas of Chota

Nagpore, and though their dialects are very different, they can make themselves mutually understood. These cognate languages have not been reduced to writing, but Colonel Tickell wrote a vocabulary of the Ho language some years ago which will be found in the Bengal Asiatic Society's journal. Dr. Hayes remarks of the Ho tongue that "it is entirely wanting in words of love or endearment, but perfectly free from the horrid abusive expressions that other native languages abound in." The languages of the Courts at Chaibassa are Hindee and Urdu. Formerly the only medium of communication between the British Officers and the Coles was the Dobashis, a class of interpreters who receive five rupees pay a month, but these men have been gradually eliminated as the Coles have become civilised. The voices of the Coles possess the peculiarity of running off into a falsetto or high treble at the end of a speech commenced in the ordinary manly bass key.

Character of the people.

150. It seems unnecessary to describe the Hindoo inhabitants of Singbhoom, they differ in no way from their brethren in other parts. The Lurka Coles however, as but little known, are interesting, though their character is not one to excite admiration or pleasure in the contemplation of it. They are a highly superstitious and suspicious race, having an abject dread of witchcraft, the practicers or subjects of which, be they infants or adults, they have little hesitation in cruelly murdering. During the threshing season the grain is heaped into cones, the apices of which are invariably pointed with a bit of dry cow-dung to drive away the *bhoots* or devils in the night, who would exercise a malignant influence on the corn and the people guarding it. Some years ago the Assistant Commissioner thoroughly well-known to the Coles, marked out a road near the Station of Chaibassa, the people filled with alarm, left their villages and refused to return until the ominous ropes and rods were withdrawn. They are liable to sudden and uncontrollable bursts of passion, when instead of an angry word a man will use his axe or his arrow on his companion; and a woman will drown herself rather than endure the shame of abuse or biting sarcasm offered by another. During the years 1826 and 1836 when British forces entered the Colehan, the resistance offered by the Coles was serious and brave; with their bows, arrows and axes, they are described as fighting well and standing their ground until shot down, but their bravery was perhaps the fruit of ignorance and not of genuine spirit; they had robbed and murdered for years as they liked, and their nominal chiefs the Rajahs of Moherbunge and Porahat were powerless to prevent them, they therefore estimated the British Sepoy as they did the Sepoys of their chiefs, and when they discovered the difference and their mistake, they quietly submitted to the terms offered them. In 1857 when the pioneers of the survey crossed the boundary from Keonjhur into the Colehan for the object of preparing the hill stations for the triangulation, the Coles seized the Khalassies, unarmed men, and threatened to cut off their heads if they left the direct track to Chaibassa; the surveyor consequently was obliged to leave his work and march to the relief of his servants. Later when the party had fairly entered the country, the men would invariably run away into the jungles on the first appearance of the camp arriving in their villages; towards midday when they had learned from their wives whom they had thus ungallantly left behind, that there was nothing to fear they would return by twos and threes. On one occasion the better-halves took up the axes of their husbands, and climbing a hill required for survey purposes, manfully cut down the jungle which prevented a view of the surrounding country from it.

Customs of the people.

151. An interesting and graphic memoir by Colonel E. T. Dalton, Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, entitled "the Kols of Chota Nagpore," to be found in the ethnology number of the A. S. B. part II of 1866, contains much minute information on the customs of this people; one deep-rooted practice of an objectionable nature may be here noticed, that of the father of a marriageable girl exacting a large price from her would-be-husband. The price asked for a girl of "good connection and clear complexion" is said to be 30 to 50 head of cattle. Attempts have been made to induce the Mankis as the leaders of fashion to abate their terms, and lately it is believed with success, for the practice has been a tangible evil, as a bar to legitimate marriage and increase of population.

Food and drink.

152. The Coles have not yet acquired a taste for other than the plainest food consisting of rice and coarse dall and salt; the former is boiled early, and the mucilaginous water in the pot is consumed as the morning meal, the grains of rice are kept skilfully treated with some extract of Jungle roots allowed to ferment, (the

concoction having become intoxicating, it forms the national beer "illee" by name,—similar to the "handia" of Chota Nagpore)—and are consumed over night as food and drink in one. As usual they eat instead of smoke their tabacco, adding lime to increase its acridness; this must have the effect of deadening the sense of taste and causing a desire for pungent flavours, for the axe-men cutting jungle have been often observed eating pinches of matter which on examination proved to be the bodies of the common red ant so commonly seen on mango trees, and which abound with formic acid. The bon bouche is wrapped in a sal tree leaf and stuck in the possessor's waist-string when not in use.

Clothing.

153. The dress of the women is scarce more ample than that worn by mother Eve, and that of the men is the same; it consists of a cotton cloth as wide as a broad tape passed round the waist and brought down tight in front and hitched up again behind. The appearance of a Coleen, let us say with a pitcher of water on her head returning from the well, suddenly coming into sight, is startling to a stanger; the Surveyors had however been prepared for the spectacle in a way by having previously met in Keonjhur with the cognate race of Puttuas or Juangas, the fair sex of which clan clothe themselves with fresh leaves only, suspended from their waistbands. It is said that the Coleens as they become more civilised, wear a cloth over their bodies, but when the survey was in the country, no indication of the change was visible.

Health and disease.

154. The Coles are subject to no peculiar disease and are a robust sleek looking race. As far as facts have come to the knowledge of the Survey Officers, the only visitations of cholera were in 1837 when the southern part of the district suffered considerably, and amongst the victims were some near relations of the Rajah of Moherbunge. Again in 1852 the disease appeared in Chaibassa, carrying off sixty-six out of two hundred and ninety-one prisoners.

155. Chaibassa itself has proved healthy to the European officers employed there, but a company of a Madras Regiment lately suffered heavily from fever and dysentery. In the rainy season a residence in camp is dangerous to European and foreign Hindustanis alike.

Education.

156. There is one Government School only in Singbhoom, and it is in Chaibassa. At the present time two hundred boys are educated in English and Hindee, as shown in the return below. Thus one in every 2119 of the population is being taught to read and write :—

Return of the pupils of the Government school, Chaibassa, during September 1868.

	Number of Pupils September 1868.					Fees paid.
	Hindoos.	Mussulmans.	Coles.	Tamarias.	Total.	
English Department	37	6	„	4	47	Annas 4, 3, & 2
Hindee do.	22	8	108	15	153	None.
	59	14	108	19	200	

The establishment of four aided Schools is contemplated to be located at Asantolia, Chuckerdharpur, Dalekola and Ghatsila. A branch of the Ranchee Lutheran Mission has been established at Chaibassa, and a School commenced. The field is considered a good one for Missionary enterprise, but at present the results have been small.

Police.

157. In the Colehan the only Police officers are the Mankis and Moondas, who are solely responsible for the peace of the country; they are empowered to call upon their ryots to assist them in the discharge of their legal duties as Police officers; and although they are unable to read or write, and hence to make other than verbal

reports to the Deputy Commissioner, the system is found to work well and to be well adapted to the peculiarities of the people. In the Seraikela and Kharsawan estates, the Rajah and Thakoor respectively are the Police officers and are responsible: these chiefs also are invested with the powers of a subordinate magistrate first class, and have been made honorary magistrates, and they exercise those powers with success. In Dhalbhoom and the Porahat estates the new constabulary Force has been established on the ordinary model, and is commanded by a District Superintendent quartered at Chaibassa. The force consists of 222 members, costing with the European officer about Rupees 40,000 per annum or in the ratio of one constable to every 889 of the population of this part of the district. It should have been mentioned that the Mankis and Moondas are also employed in the collection of the land revenue in the Colehan, and that the percentage of ten and six on the gross collections is the remuneration they receive for performing both police and fiscal duties.

Ratio of police to inhabitants.

158. The head quarters of the district at Chaibassa consist of the Deputy Commissioner who is in general charge of the country and administers the Civil and Magisterial courts, assisted by the Civil surgeon, who is also ex-officio an Assistant Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police with the usual subordinate staff.

Head quarters.

159. The following extract from the Singbhoom Police Report for 1867 is appended for reference :—

POLICE REPORT.

Singbhoom District.

1867.

1	2		3		4		5	
	1867		Average of for preceding year.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1 Offences against the State ..			2.	2.			2.	2.
2 Offences relating to the Army								
3 Offences against public tranquillity ...	1	6	2.8	8.8			1.8	2.8
4 Offences relating to public servants	6	7	2.2	3.6	3.8	3.4		
5 Contempt of the lawful authority of public servants ...	28	55	20.6	38.4	7.4	16.6		
6 False evidence and offences against public justice ...	24	47	23.8	38.4	.2	8.6		
7 Offences relating to Commissioner and Govt. Stamps .	7	8	2.2	3.0	4.8	5.0		
8 Offences relating to weight and measure .			0.2	0.2			0.2	0.2
9 Offences affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and moral ...	2	9	3.8	6.8		2.2	1.8	
10 Offences relating to religion .								
11 Offences affecting the human body. ...	172	351	153.4	273.6	18.6	77.4		
12 Offences against property ...	350	975	351.6	1204.6			1.6	229.6
13 Offences relating to documents & to trade or property marks	2	3	0.2		1.8	2.8		
14 Criminal breach of contract of Services ...	2	11	0.1	1.0	1.0	10.0		
15 Offences relating to marriage...	6	15	0.7	13.0	.2	1.0		
16 Defamation ...	14	20	11.4	19.4	2.6	0.6		
17 Criminal intimidation indirect and annoyance ...	10	14	4.8	9.0	5.2	5.0		
18 Miscellaneous offences ...	41	67	29.0	40.2	12.0	26.8		
	665	1588	614.2	1660.4	57.4	160.4	6.6	232.8

160. For exportation no manufactures are carried on. At Seraikela there are a few weavers of tusser silk cloths and brass smiths, and the cloth required by the people is made with the common hand-loom by Hindoos of the weaver caste. In some out of the way nooks amongst the hills soapstone is found, and there a poor class of Hindoos turn with a rough hand lathe, the platters used by the natives to place their cooked food in.

Manufactures.

161. There is a small importation of Manchester cotton goods for the Hindoo inhabitants. Salt is now imported from Calcutta by way of Raneegunge and Purulia, or from Midnapore, Hooghly and Bancoora; the Cuttack supply having ceased. Fifteen to twenty thousand maunds are believed to be consumed annually in the district and neighbouring estates.

Imports.

162. In exchange for the salt imported on pack bullocks by travelling merchants, country produce, such as common cereals, pulses, stick-lac and iron are sent out of the country, and in late years large quantities of tusser silk cocoons are exported to Bancoora and the east; the seat of the trade is Chaibassa, and it is estimated that 50,000 rupees worth are collected.

Exports.

163. At Chaibassa only are there regular shops for cloth, grain and sundries; here also is held a weekly market, and once a year, a fair which being fixed to take place after the harvest when the people pay in their rents to the Treasury, a general meeting of the neighbouring population enables the brass and cloth sellers to drive a brisk trade. Buffaloes and cattle also at this time change hands. In Seraikela, Khursawan, Kera and Chuckerdherpur, Hindoos of the mahajan caste reside and ply their trade. And in many of the principal villages weekly markets or hâts are held under the shade of a mango grove. Barter rather than cash transactions is the characteristic of these smaller marts.

Markets and fairs.

164. The measures of capacity vary greatly at different places, depending upon the size of the wooden cup the seller happens to possess. That measure called a paila may be assumed to be one seer of eighty-four tolas. The names and proportions of the other measures are.—

Weights and measures.

1 Powa	=	¼ Seer.
1 Batee or Kona	=	½ Seer.
1 Paila	=	1 Seer.
1 Pai	=	2 Seers.

165. The superficial measure is an arbitrary one, fixed by the local officials at 12,500 square yards equivalent nearly to a square of 112 yards side, on this area as a unit, called a hal, the land rent is calculated and paid. The Colarean linear measures are the cubit and coss: the latter is that distance which a man can walk before a fresh branch that he carries in his hand withers; it is therefore sufficiently vague.

166. No business of the kind is in operation in a systematic form. Simple advances are made in Seraikela and Dhalbhoom at an interest of half to one anna per rupee per month. For the purchase of Tusser cocoons time-advances supposed to run four or five months are negotiated in consideration of each rupee having four to eight annas added to it at the repayment. In exceptional cases higher rates are paid. In the sowing season seed-rice is borrowed, and it is repaid at harvest with an extra fifty per cent. in kind; and in the Colehan a good deal of this borrowing takes place, but the lender is repaid double. There are no cash transactions of large amount.

Banking, lending and borrowing.

167. The existing roads of the district all radiating from Chaibassa the capital, are of the class styled "fair weather roads". The most expensively constructed one is that connecting Ranchee and passing through Bandgaon, it is bridged throughout with masonry except only the larger streams; it however, ascends a long and difficult ghat at the top of which is the village of Khuchang. There is a second road to Ranchee by way of Khursawan up to which place only have bridges

Modes of transit and communication.
Roads to Ranchee.

been built, this line also crosses a difficult range of hills near Terai, and Chaitanpur Dak travellers follow the latter line, but the not great cart traffic passes over the former. A third road to Midnapore has the smaller streams only bridged with rough timber, which requires renewing every two or three years. A fourth road runs south as far as Jyntgurh on the boundary of Keonjhur on the way to Cuttack. There is a fifth road under construction, it passes through Seraikela and is intended to be continued to Purulia and so on, to serve as a feeder to the railway at Burrakur station.

168. The following table of distances from Chaibassa has been prepared from the Topographical Survey Maps.

From Chaibassa.

To	By	Miles.
Bankura	Purulia	110
Barakar Station	Do.	108
Calcutta	Do. and Raniganj	240
Do.	Bankura	206
Do.	Ranchi, Hazaribaugh and Burhi	400
Hazaribaugh	Khursawan, Ranchi and Urumanji	131
Do.	Bandgaon, Ranchi and Petoria	123
Do.	Khursawan, Ranchi and Petoria	119
Keonjur		64
Midnapur		116
Purulia		72
Raniganj	Purulia	118
Ranchi	Bandgaon	79
Do.	Khursawan	75

169. The following table of distances from Ranchee is inserted here, it having been omitted in its proper place in the Chota Nagpore report.

From Ranchi.

To	By	Miles.
Bankura	Purulia	117
Bisrampur	Jushpur through Nagri	170
Do.	Nagri, Korambe Jaragi, &c	158
Bonai		111
Burwah	Nagrai, Korambee, &c.	78
Barakar, Station	Purulia	108
Calcutta	Purulia	274
Do.	Urumanji, Hazaribaugh and Barhi	325
Chaibassa	Bandgaon	79
Do.	Terai and Kharsawan	75
Daltonganj	Palamow	88
Hazaribaugh	Urumanji	56
Janakpur	Pertabpur	245
Jhilmili	Do.	168
Jushpur	Bharno and Murgu	90
Lohardugga	Bhandra	44
Do.	Choria	48
Lakhanpur	Juspurnagar	170
Midnapur	Purulia and Bankura	173
Palamow		81
Pertabpur	Nagri, Korame, Burwah	152
Purulia		70
Raniganj	Purulia	122
Suadi	Basia	134
Sunhat	Pertabpur	194

170. The old Calcutta and Bombay road selected and constructed by Lieut. Kittoe in 1838 runs in a tolerably straight line from Midnapore to Sumbulpore, but it crosses a mass of precipitous hills of at least two thousand feet elevation, besides other hilly ground; and it traverses a country remote from the more thickly inhabited and cultivated parts. Except on the Alpine system of railways (Fell's or some other) this line could not be made practicable for traffic, and then only at vast expense. If it ever be determined to construct a direct line of Railway between Calcutta and Bombay or Nagpore, another line than Kittoe's must be taken up. Such a line the Topographical Survey Maps show to exist, which owing to a remarkable break or passage amongst the hills, as described in para. 111, of this report, is to all appearance well suited for the construction of a railway in which no steep gradients would be required, no elevated water-shed be crossed, no great rivers be bridged, the line fairly direct, and at the same time the Gangpur coalfield would be tapped, the Raigar coalfield passed at a distance of twenty miles only, and the great grain producing plains of Chateesgurh would be opened up.

The old Calcutta and Bombay road.

Proposed direct railway between Calcutta and Nagpore

171. The proposed line has been carefully shown on the index map appended: and a brief description of the obstacles to be overcome, and the general items of information, follow in a tabular form. A series of trigonometrical heights observations having been taken, the levels of the country along the whole line is obtained with great accuracy. Minute points of information, such as the number and size of the nullahs to be bridged, may be looked for on the Topographical Survey maps, scale one mile to one inch.

Sketch of proposed Railway.

A series of trigonometrical levels.

172. The proposed line, it will be seen, passes 30 miles north of Sumbhulpur to connect which by rail would involve a sharp detour and a double crossing of the large river the Mahanadi, otherwise it is believed that there would be no difficulty.

Sumbhulpur can be connected

173. The distance by the proposed line from Calcutta to Nagpore is 645 miles, or only two-thirds of that traversed by the line of railway passing through Jubbulpore, it being about 940 miles, and a saving of distance would be secured of fully 300 miles.

Comparative distance via. Direct Line and via. Jubbulpur.

General Description of the proposed direct line of Rail between Calcutta and Nagpore, viâ. Midnapore, Chaibassa, Gangpur, and Belaspur, as taken from the maps of the Topographical Survey.

1	2	3	4	5		6
			Miles.	Feet		
	From	To	Distance	Height.	Difference of Height.	
	Calcutta	Midnapur	68.0	50		The height of Howrah above sea is 18 feet; that of Midnapore is not now obtainable; it is probably 50 feet.
	Midnapur	DhalbhoomBoundary	36.8	500	+ 450	A mile north of the line is Khari H. S. the trigonometrical mark cut on which is 574 feet above sea.
	Dhalbhoom by	Chondorekha. ...	30.4	350	— 150	Only small streams crossed.
	Chondorekha	Chaibassa	38.8	750	+ 400	The crossing of the Subanrekha is about 350 feet above sea, a bridge of 104 yards required; Gurrha Nulla, small bridge Kapurgadi ghat no great obstacle, 50 feet gentle rise. Gurrha Nulla second crossing. Khorkai requires 90 yards span bridge, and numerous small bridges.

1	2	3	4	5		6
			Miles.	Feet		
	From	To	Distance	Height.	Difference of height.	
	Chaibassa	Porahat	22.5	800	+ 50	Porahat village would be left on the north of the line which would wind through the Soro pass, escaping all sudden rises and steep gradients. The trigl. mark of Chaibassa is cut on a well-head on the south of the town and is 745 feet above sea. The height of Porahat is estimated only. No rivers, but many small streams to be crossed. N. B. From Chondorekha to Porahat another line viâ. Seraikela and Chuckerdharpur might be taken, which would avoid all hills; the distance would be longer; Chaibassa would be left out and the Khorkai would have to be bridged in a broader part, and the Sunjai in two places.
	Porahat	Anandpur	19.2	750	— 50	The line would cross the watershed between the rivers Subanrekha and Koel at an estimated height of 850 feet above sea. This section and the next would consist of undulating ground covered with forest of sal timber, which would afford an almost inexhaustible supply of sleepers and fuel. On the north of the line would lie the spurs of the plateau of Chota Nagpore on the south, the hills running on towards Cuttack. The Koel river which has a rocky bed would require a bridge of 90 yards.
	Anandpur	Laingurh	43.5	628	— 122	In this section the crossing of the Koel and Bramini rivers may in all probability be avoided by carrying the line along the right bank of the former. But at the point when the Government estate of Somij-pir is left, and Gangpur estate is entered, a range of hills coming down to the rivers' bank would be encountered, but probably it would form no great obstacle. Opposite this barrier and S.W. of the village of Joraikola is a trigl.-station 703 feet above sea. Beyond this part and as far as Laingurh, the ground offers no great difficulties except some streams to be bridged. A large bridge would be required near Laingurh, where on the east of the village between the Nakti and Bor streams, there is a trigl.-station 628 feet above sea. If the line were taken one mile north of Laingurh, the Nakti nullah would be avoided altogether. The bed of the Sunk river is sandy and the banks are low.
	Laingurh	Suadi or crossing of the Eeb river	46.4	766	+ 138	The line would probably pass about eight miles south of Suadi, where there is a trigl. station close to and on the south of the village 766 feet above sea. The Eeb is 180 yards wide.
	Suadi	Chanderpur	54.8	650	— 116	The line must here swerve towards the south so as to circumvent the low hills about Hingir. At the same time the Gangpur coal field would be met with at 8 or 9 miles west of the Eeb river crossing. No obstacles but streams in this section. Chanderpur Temple is a trigl. station 715 feet above

1	2	3	4	5		6
	From	To	Miles. Distance	Feet Height.	Feet Difference of height.	
						sea, and the general level of the Mahanadi river bank is here 650 feet. The Raigar coal. field would lie 20 or 30 miles on the north. N. B. Should it be necessary for political reasons to connect Sumbhulpur with the rail, the line would run southwards from Suadi along the left bank of the Eeb. The crossing of the Mahanadi at this town would require a large bridge, and the same river would have to be crossed again on the way to Raipore.
	Chanderpur	Belaspur	76.8			This section is believed to be nearly level, though the height of Belaspore is not known. The Hasdo is a large stream.
	Belaspur	Nagpore	208.0			This section appears to possess no difficulties, the country is level. The height of Nagpore is not available in the No. 4 Topographical Party Office.
						MEMO. Calcutta to Nagpore viâ Chaibassa ...645 Calcutta to Nagpore viâ Jubbulpore...936
		Total	645.2			Difference in favour of Direct line...291

174. During the cold weather and hot season all the rivers are fordable at very many points, and in the main streams only is the supply perennial. The bridges where constructed, are of small span with masonry piers and timber girders arranged on a simple plan without trussing. In many cases temporary bridges of rough unsquared timber span the smallest streams. In the event of more road-making being undertaken in the Colehan, the engineer has the power of forming a very close estimate of the number of drain bridges required, if he will consult the Topographical Survey Maps, and will notice that besides the nullahs shown thereon, every strip of rice cultivation must have its bridge.

Fords, ferries and bridges.

175. The Post Office is under the direction of the Imperial establishment in Calcutta. The communication with Calcutta and the rest of India is carried on viâ Khursawan and Ranchee, and the service is daily each way. Letters from Calcutta reach Chaibassa on the fifth day or at the rate of four miles an hour, the distance being 400 miles. There is besides the usual Zemindari dak by which Police Officers communicate with one another.

Post Office.

176. The revenue of the district is made up principally of the tax upon land, it being 0.77 or more than three-fourths of the whole amount. The Lurkas being still semi-civilised have not yet acquired a love for litigation, they only pay 0.06 of the gross revenue in the shape of stamps, and in the matter of excise they, as a beer drinking race, require none of the stimulus to be obtained from the alcoholic liquor of the Government distillery, they pay 0.09 of their revenue under this head, or in both cases much less than their brethren in Chota Nagpore, the decimals standing at 0.28 for stamps and 0.21 for excise. The demand of land revenue for 1867-68 was Rs. 57,833, whereas the actual collection amounted to Rs. 57,732 as shown in the table below, which has been obtained from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom. The regularity with which the Coles now pay their taxes is a gratifying fact resulting from the system of Government proposed by Major Wilkinson in 1837, being so well adapted to the people, as well as from the British Officers,

Sources of revenue and produce of each tax.

who have been set over them, having uniformly devoted themselves to securing the welfare of the country.

Land Revenue of	Colehan ...	Rs. 46,347		
	Porahat ...	7,119		
	Dhalbhoom ...	4,266		
	Seraikela ...	0		
				Rs. 57,732
Excise			...	„ 5,370
Stamps			...	„ 4,200
License Tax			...	„ 1,300
Miscellaneous	Peon's Fund ...	2,812		
	Zemindari Dak ...	1,177		
	Pound Fund ...	930		
	Fines, &c., ...	681		
	Chowkidari Tax ...	344	...	... 5,944
Total Revenue of Singbhoom District			...	Rs. 74,546

177. Taking the total revenue as above, and the population of the whole estate from para. 143, and dividing the former by the latter, we obtain the fact, that each person paid on an average Rs. 0.18 or four pence farthing or about one penny more than their fellow subjects in Chota Nagpore (vide para. 96.)

Average taxation per head.

178. Again, following the process indicated in para. 97, it will be found that the land revenue paid to Her Majesty's Government amounted on an average to Rs. 12.8 per square mile, or twenty-five shillings and seven pence, being rather more than double that paid in Chota Nagpore.

Land revenue average per square mile.

179. For modes of collection of revenue, see para. 127.

Modes of collection.

180. The present district of Singbhoom consists of a few petty estates without natural cohesion, covering no defined natural country or area, which have been brought together arbitrarily to suit the political exigencies of the time. Tradition asserts that twelve generations ago, a Kadambansi Rajpoot of Joudhpur was passing through the country on a pilgrimage to Juggernath, when the inhabitants persuaded him to remain and to become their Raja, and from this time forward the country received the name of Singbhoom. The new Raja fixed his Gurh at Porahat, probably selecting it on account of its inaccessibility, or perhaps because it commanded the Pass through the hills described in para. 170, and became the ancestor of the Ex-Rajas of Porahat and Seraikela and the Thakoor of Khursawan. In the year 1793 the country first came into notice, when frontier disturbances having taken place, the British Government were under the necessity of compelling the chiefs of Seraikela and Khursawan to enter into an agreement relative to fugitive rebels. During the next twenty-five years nothing further was heard of it, or until 1818, when the Raja of Singbhoom sought the protection of our Government. It is certain that before this time the Raja was perfectly independent, and that the Mahrattas had never intefered with him. It now became the object of the Raja to be acknowledged as Lord Paramount of Singbhoom, for his kinsmen of the junior branches of Seraikela and Khursawan had now increased in riches and importance, and had declared themselves independent of him. Again, the Raja hoped to recover a tutelary image of the family which the Baboo of Seraikela had become possessed of. And he also sought aid to coerce the Lurkas who nominally owed him allegiance. The Government refused to recognise his pretensions to supremacy, declaring that they would not interfere, and that in return for their protection they would demand only a nominal tribute. Accordingly in 1820, it was stipulated that the Raja should pay Rs. 101 as an annual tribute. It was intended that similar engagements should be drawn out with the chiefs of Seraikela and Khursawan, but the matter was overlooked at the time, and up to the present day these chiefs pay service to the British Government, but no tribute what-

History, early and recent.

ever. The Raja of Singbhoom having failed in obtaining the realisation by the Government of his ambitious hopes in 1818, did succeed in regaining possession of his idol in 1823, but it seems to have done him little good, for he gradually lost ground, and owing to the jungly character of his country became poorer, until in 1837, the force under Captain Wilkinson having taken possession of the Colehan, a pension of Rs. 500 per annum was granted him partly as a compassionate allowance and partly as compensation for certain country which he had declared himself unable to keep under controul. The Raja was now styled Raja of Porahat. The family still continued to decline until 1857, when the Raja after doing excellent service by capturing and delivering over to the Civil authorities at Ranchee, the mutinous sepoys of a detachment of the Ramgurh battalion, lately stationed at Chaibassa, together with their arms and plunder, consisting of the contents of the treasury they had guarded, conducted himself for some reason not well understood in a manner which led to his being declared a rebel, and to the confiscation of his estates. At this juncture the Raja and his adherents escaped to the jungles and hills on the west side of Porahat, whence for some months he kept up a system of reprisals on the small force which had meanwhile captured and burnt his house and chief village of Porahat, and of arson, robbery, and murder, on the villages and loyal inhabitants within his reach. At last being reduced to extremities, he unconditionally surrendered himself to the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, who was in the field against him, and was condemned to imprisonment for life at Benares soon afterwards.

Of Seraikela.

181. The career of the junior branch, that of Seraikela, has been very different. The Baboos or Kours of Seraikela have been conspicuous for several generations, as the staunch friends of the British Government. Lords Wellesley and Minto addressed them as Raja and recognised them as loyal subjects. Meanwhile their country being level and well watered by numerous streams, was cleared and brought into cultivation, and the Rajas enjoying under the protection of the British, the fruits of these improvements, became well to do. In 1856 the Kour of Seraikela was raised to the dignity of Raja Bahadoor, and for his services in 1857, he received a khillut and a rent-free for ever grant of the peer of Koraikela, a part of the country of his rival, the Raja of Porahat; he has since then continued to prosper, and he has become the most influential native gentleman in Singbhoom, having been made an Honorary Magistrate in his own estate to add to his dignity.

Of Khursawan

182. The Baboo of Khursawan, the youngest branch of the Porahat family, has continued in the possession of his family estate, and has paid much loyal service to the Government. He has been invested with magisterial powers which he administers with success.

Of the Colehan.

183. The Colehan originally consisted of a congeries of small counties called peers, which nominally belonged to the Rajas of Moherbunge and Singbhoom, and the Kour of Seraikela. It was inhabited by a turbulent race called Lurkas or Hos by themselves, but known as Coles or low castes by their Hindoo neighbours. The Coles were for many years the terror of the surrounding country. Sixty years ago the Raja of Chota Nagpore, with his ally, the Raja of Singbhoom, entered the Colehan at the head of 20,000 men, and was ignominiously beaten back with slaughter. No Brahmin, Rajpoot or Mussulman was allowed to dwell in their country, and no traveller dared to pass through it. The Coles robbed, and murdered their neighbours with impunity, burning the villages at the same time to the extent that the British Government was obliged to interfere, and upon the nominal chiefs acknowledging their inability to restrain their subjects, the country was occupied in 1820 by a force under Major Roughsedge, who after some fighting in which the Coles showed great bravery, compelled the Coles of the northern peers to submit to their Raja. Then ensued fighting between the Coles of the north who had submitted, and the men of the south who still held out, and in consequence a second expedition under Colonel Richards in 1821, was employed against and thoroughly subdued these refractory people. After one month's hostilities, the Mankis and headmen all surrendered and entered into engagements of fidelity to the Government, and of willingness to pay a plough-tax to their own chiefs. This state of things continued until 1830, when the Coles having always shown the greatest aversion to their Hindoo chiefs, attacked one of their officers

stationed in the south of the Colehan, and drove him out of the country. After this act, for several years the depredations were continued with impunity, and Dhalbhoom and Bamanghaty were devastated. But in 1836 a third expedition was set on foot, and Captain Wilkinson with a force of two regiments of infantry, and two of cavalry, and some guns, again entered the country, and carried on hostilities through the cold season. In the beginning of 1837 the head men again submitted and promised allegiance, and payment of the plough-tax this time to the Government instead of to their own chiefs. There was some further fighting during the following November of the same year, but from that time up to 1857, or for twenty years, peace and quiet prevailed; the Coles meanwhile continued to prosper and become more civilised, so that in 1856 they cheerfully agreed to pay their plough-tax then fixed at double the former amount. In 1857 however a large number of Lurkas of the southern peers espoused the cause of the rebel Raja of Porahat, and returned to their old habits of violence, but eventually on the capture of the Raja and on the general restoration of order throughout India, they came back to their villages, and since then they have remained in quiet, and have made marked advances on the road to civilization and thrift. Since 1857 they have had their taxes trebled under a new settlement, and steady improvement seems the order of the day.

History of Dhalbhoom.

184. The history of Dhalbhoom is an uneventful one. Originally a pergunnah attached to Midnapore, it was transferred to the Manbhoom district in 1833, and afterwards again transferred in 1846 to Singbhoom, the land-tax having originally been assessed at Rs. 4,266. The Rajas of this estate have never distinguished themselves in any way, and the present chief is a minor. The family is now reckoned of good Rajpoot blood, but it is believed to have belonged to the washerman caste, hence the name Dhalbhoom.

Public buildings.

185. The public buildings exist only in Chaibassa, they consist of a pucka kuchari in course of construction, and the following kutcha structures, the old kutcheri, to be made into a circuit house, a Police station, a Post Office, Mosafirkhana, central distillery, School, Jail, Charity Hospital, Police Hospital, and European Inspector's quarters; many of these buildings are of mud walls only with tiled roofs. There is no traveller's bungalow throughout the district.

Antiquities.

186. There are no antiquities in the country that have come under the Surveyor's notice except an old fort called Lalgurh lying in the Colehan; it consists of a tank and a few mounds only, and nothing is known of its history. At Moholia in Dhalbhoom is an ancient temple of no architectural interest, but it is regarded with veneration by the Raja, and all the ceremonies at his installation, and all religious sacrifices are here carried on before it.

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